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# THE TIMES

No. 64,477

FRIDAY OCTOBER 30 1992

45p

Britain cannot 'rat' on treaty

## Hardline Major goes for broke on Maastricht

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN Major prepared for a showdown with his Euro-rebels last night, telling Conservative MPs that he would not "rat" on Maastricht and that they should stop squabbling over Europe.

The prime minister's impassioned address to his backbenchers came after the cabinet agreed yesterday morning specifically to demand support for the Maastricht treaty in the Commons next week rather than avoid confrontation with an innocuous technical motion. In the words of one of his closest associates, Mr Major decided to go for broke.

First in the Commons and then at the packed meeting of the 1922 Committee, he signalled his determination to

**In a spirited performance, the prime minister appears to have won over some of the Tory Euro waverers and given strong hints of a package for economic recovery**

gamble all on facing down his critics. His resolution appeared to inspire him to one of his most spirited and confident Commons performances for some time, and he continued in similar vein when he met his backbenchers later.

The Conservative manifesto was not an à la carte menu from which they could merely pick the juicy items, he told them. The Maastricht treaty was needed to establish confidence for the economy and strengthen the credibility and authority of Britain within Europe. Foreign investors would not come to Britain if they believed it was sidelining itself in Europe, he said.

took a sideswipe at senior figures who have publicly criticised him and his policies in recent weeks, remarking that it was not reasonable "to take matters to television first and to ministers second".

Amid indications that the cabinet is considering tax increases in next month's Autumn Statement, the prime minister went on to hint strongly that painful cuts to be unveiled would be accompanied by a package of economic recovery measures that would be popular with Conservative MPs.

Amid signs of cautious but growing confidence on the government side, battle lines were being drawn up last night for the most important vote of Mr Major's premiership. Senior ministers were delighted that he had decided to stand up to the Euro-sceptics, believing that victory next week will make the subsequent passage of the Maastricht bill far easier.

But Lord Tebbit re-entered the fray with a fierce attack on the government's handling of recent events. He accused ministers of refusing to discuss the treaty provisions. While advising Mr Major not to resign if he lost, Lord Tebbit argued that if he did so, it would not bring about an election. The party would rally behind a new leader.

Speaking in Michael Heseltine's Henley constituency, Lord Tebbit blamed the undermining of Mr Major's authority on the David Mellor affair, the shambles of the attempted defence of sterling and the "grotesque farce" of Mr Heseltine's presentation of the coal policy.

With Labour committed to voting against the government, and the Liberal Democrats to supporting it, the

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## Ronson empire falls to bankers

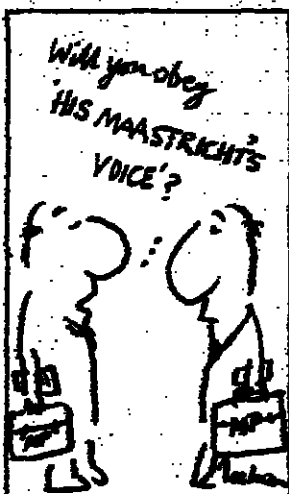
By Our Business Staff

GERALD Ronson, the flamboyant East End millionaire whose career has ranged from glittering royal charity galas to Ford Open Prison, yesterday lost control of his debt-ridden business empire.

Banks and international investors are taking over Heron International, his property and petrol station group, in return for writing off £400 million of its £1.45 billion debt. The move is a bitter blow for Mr Ronson less than two years after he was released from prison, where he served six months for his role in the Guinness scandal.

Once worth an estimated £548 million, Mr Ronson dizzied both the City and society with his wealth. Now his salary has been halved and his stake in Heron cut to 5 per cent. The banks have allowed him to stay on as chief executive to oversee the sell-off, but he has been forced to give up his position as chairman.

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adding: "Why should we be able to tell France not to rat on the Gatt talks if we rat on Maastricht?"

Calling on his MPs to put aside their wrangling over Europe and get on with discussing the issues, he continued: "We owe it to ourselves. We owe it to the millions who supported us." A united Conservative party was a formidable fighting force, but "The Conservative party when it is divided is not the party I know, not the party I love, and not the party I joined." He also

## Bomber Harris statue coated in paint



Seeing red: the statue of Sir Arthur Harris in the Strand under attack again

## 'Shame' daubed on £100,000 memorial

By Alan Hamilton

VANDALS have again attacked the controversial bronze statue of Sir Arthur Harris, wartime head of Bomber Command and architect of the carpet-bombing of German cities. The statue, outside the RAF church of St Clement Dames in the Strand, central London, and its plinth have been sprayed with red paint and daubed with the word "Shame".

The statue was unveiled by the Queen Mother in May at a ceremony attended by several hundred bomber crew veterans. About 200 peace demonstrators tried to disrupt proceedings by spraying paint over onlookers. Three students were arrested but were later cleared at Southwark crown court of plotting to deface the statue.

Former members of Bomber Command raised £100,000 for a memorial to their wartime hero, believing that Fighter Command had captured all the glory of wartime heroism in the air.

Since its unveiling the statue has caused offence, notably in the German city of Dresden, which was devastated on the night of February 13, 1945, with the loss of at least 35,000 civilians and possibly as many as another 100,000 refugees fleeing the advancing Soviet army. During her visit last week the Queen faced some demonstrations, and the throwing of two eggs, from people protesting at what they saw as the insensitivity of the Harris statue.

Opponents of "Bomber" Harris view him as a mass murderer, but others believe his strategy of reducing major German centres of population and industry to rubble and submission helped to shorten the war by several months.

## Girl, 14, files to 'divorce' parents

By Frances Gibb  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A GIRL aged 14 has obtained a court order which effectively "divorces" her parents and enables her to move out of the family home. The case, believed to be the first in the United Kingdom, comes just weeks after a boy in the United States divorced his parents so he could be adopted by foster parents.

Under the Children Act 1989, it would not be strictly possible here for a child to separate entirely from its parents, because the Act contains the notion of parental responsibility which remains with parents even if they separate.

The Surrey case mirrors the American case, however, in that the girl took proceedings herself, instructed solicitors, obtained legal aid and obtained an order which gives legal approval to her living outside the parental home.

Lawyers predict that as the full effects of the Act and the wider rights it gives to children to take legal proceedings are more widely known, such cases will become common. Apart from children wishing to live away from home, lawyers believe that they may well come to court with actions on such issues as schooling, religious upbringing and medical treatment.

Valerie Kleanthous, spokesman for the Solicitors' Family Law Association, said however: "I don't believe there will be many cases where children are seeking orders to remove themselves from living with both parents, because usually the situation is that parents are separated. One or other of the parents is making the application, and the child is happy to be with that parent."

At least two other children in the US have filed similar suits against neglectful parents since Gregory Kingsley's successful suit.

Court order, page 3

## Lamont confirms U-turn in 'steer towards growth'

By Anatole Kalesky, Economics Editor

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday confirmed the U-turn in government economic policy announced last week by John Major, declaring that the government's economic goal had "never been simply to defeat inflation".

He said the government could now "steer the economy back towards growth" after the dramatic reduction in inflation and Britain's departure from the European exchange-rate mechanism.

Speaking to the City at the annual Mansion House banquet, the Chancellor said that achieving sustainable growth "just as prosperity can be jeopardised by too lax a policy and too high a rate of inflation, so too, we have now recognised that policy can become too tight."

In a speech that contrasted point by point with his unrepentantly deflationary address to the Conservative party conference three weeks ago, Mr Lamont signalled the biggest change in government economic philosophy since

## MAIN POINTS FROM THE SPEECH

- Economic policy, which was never simply to defeat inflation, will be rebalanced to give even greater weight to growth
- Public investment plans protected in Autumn Statement; new accounting rules encourage private infrastructure investment
- Independent Forecasting Panel will supplement Treasury forecasts and Treasury will summarise the basis for its policy judgements in Monthly Monetary Reports.

Lords Howe and Lawson introduced strict monetarism into Treasury policy. He also confirmed the government's commitment to maintain its spending on infrastructure and capital investment, and announced a series of organisational reforms designed to make the Treasury and the Bank of England more open and accountable in their economic decisions.

Although Mr Lamont's speech was short on specifics about interest-rate prospects and public spending plans, it hinted at a further cut in interest rates and a major shift of resources in favour of public investment, rather than government current spending, in the Autumn Statement in two weeks' time. Warning that the

government must remain vigilant against inflation, Mr Lamont said that monetary conditions had already been eased very significantly since the devaluation of sterling. However, he added that he had no desire to keep interest rates higher than necessary to meet the government's inflation objectives.

In an unusual preview of the Autumn Statement on November 12, the Chancellor said that new government accounting rules would be changed to allow private investment in public spending capital projects. By the end of next year the government accounts

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## Yard charges man over Semtex haul

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

A MAN was charged last night with conspiring to cause an explosion and possession of Semtex, after a cache of bomb-making equipment was found in east London. Two other people were being questioned by anti-terrorist branch detectives last night.

Scotland Yard said Vincent James Wood, 29, a sales representative of Leytonstone, east London, will appear before Bow Street magistrates this morning.

Another man and a woman were being held at unidentified police stations after being arrested in raids in Leytonstone. Scotland Yard believes the seizure of one of the biggest hauls of Semtex explosive on the mainland — found at a do-it-yourself shop in Goodmayes, east London — may have foiled a pre-Christmas IRA bombing campaign. Forensic scientists are now examining the find, which included 77lb of Semtex, timers and detonators.

The arrests followed a surveillance operation that began after the shop's owner became suspicious about a tea chest left with him by an old

school friend. He opened it and found it packed with explosives. A woman living near the home of the detained couple said there had been a lot of activity at the house recently. She said the couple had lived there for about three years and described them as quiet people.

Police are expected to question the suspects, who are being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, about 14 bomb explosions in London over the past three weeks in which one man died and 11 people were injured. Most of the explosions, including one in The Sussex pub near Leicester Square that killed David Heffer, were caused by small devices, but police have feared a big attack using a large amount of explosives would follow.

The three are also expected to be questioned about other IRA attacks in London this year, including the van bomb that killed three people and caused extensive damage in the City of London the day after the general election.

Why IRA is losing, page 16

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## Mothers blanch as Major unveils naked aggression

**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

A storming comeback by John Major yesterday afternoon saw the Labour leader dive for cover as the prime minister threw logic to the winds and hurled statistics, the CBI and a decadent *fin de siècle* opera at poor John Smith's balding head.

It was the opera that seemed to get Mr Major most excited. *Salomé* is a rather over-the-top piece involving goateed ladies and profligate, naked ladies and severed heads.

It is nothing like prime minister's questions at all. Performed with a good deal of bare flesh, fresh blood and sumptuous music, *Salomé* is the sort of thing my nana would have described as uncalled for. It should never have been included in the adolescent John Major's school syllabus. It clearly turned the boy's head at a susceptible age, and, at 49, he has still not shaken it out of his system, as yesterday proved.

It all started quietly. Desires of something new to be shocked about. Labour's William O'Brien (Normanton) hoped to tease an extra seven pit closures out of the PM, but failed. Tony Banks (Lab, Newham NW), in what was (for Banks) a pretty mellow mood, told the PM he was as welcome in the East End of London as anthrax. This succeeded in quickening the PM's pulse somewhat, and Banks was treated to a sub-Thatcherite canter through the mythology of Tory good deeds — a sort of test rant.

And up stood the Labour leader, spectacles glinting in the TV lights, quite ebullient, confident that he was armed with an unanswerable question. What did Major make of Foreign Office pessimism about Denmark's new Maastricht proposals?

The trouble, for more than a decade now, with asking Tory prime ministers unanswerable questions, is that they do not answer them. Mr Major simply beamed and said he was sure something "positive" would come out of Edinburgh. Mr Smith became agitated. This was the trigger.

Mr Major went wild. On the basis that slaughter is the best form of defence, the PM launched into a noisy and derisive assault on Labour's alleged lack of principle in opposing a Maastricht motion. Mr Smith spluttered that this was "a bit rich", which it

was, but was suddenly mown down by a spirited Major onslaught. From amidst a barrage of confident-sounding prime-ministerial noise, we heard the cry "seven U-turns on Europe" — and then, to our puzzlement, "even Salomé ran out at seven".

Salomé? What could Mr Major mean? The opera is an exotic creation in which the lascivious Salomé, having failed to seduce the goateed St John the Baptist, resolves to destroy him. Clad only in seven veils, she dances before her stepfather, King Herod, his interest growing as she drops them. Six down and one to go. Salomé turns a little coy. Herod goes wild, and offers her anything. She asks for John's head on a platter. In a gory scene this proves forthcoming. Then Salomé is put violently to death.

Mr Smith's jaws dropped as the prime minister began a heated comparison between Mr Smith's dispatch box performance and Salomé's early version of the strip-tease. "And what he has revealed is less attractive," concluded Major, brutally.

This was unfair. John Smith has managed to shed quite a bit of weight recently. If he took off his glasses and wriggled his hips saucily as the final veil floated away, Mr Smith could probably inspire in us feelings of amused protectiveness, and possible affection too, though perhaps not desire. But there was now no stopping Major, who was in quite a state.

The prime minister had still not calmed down when Lady Olga Maitland gave him what she called a "warm" invitation to call on her in Sutton and Chesham. No doubt meaning to soothe him, she suggested that the repossession of Surrey homes was reducing, and added that Mr Major might include a visit to the hospital where he was born.

Dear me. With all that had gone before concerning Salomé, the sight of the lovely Lady Olga, in red, combined with the mention of childbirth, was too much. Mr Major meant to respond to her point about repossession. He said "reproduction". Younger journalists quailed. Labour's deputy leader, Margaret Beckett, dressed in pink, cast down her eyes. Mothers in the Strangers' gallery covered their children's ears. St John the Accountant had flipped.

## Patten lets opt-out school pick pupils for sporting prowess

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GRANT-MAINTAINED schools will be allowed to select an agreed percentage of their pupils on the basis of ability in non-academic subjects without obtaining formal approval from ministers for a change in admissions policy, under an education department ruling released yesterday.

Under present arrangements, opt-out schools wishing to become selective must take local consultations and apply to John Patten, the education secretary, for a "change in character".

However, in a private letter earlier this month, the department said that schools could bypass these procedures if they selected a limited number of pupils on the basis of non-academic talents.

"We take the view that the introduction of a degree of selection on the basis of ability in aesthetic subjects or sport need not be the subject of statutory proposals, provided that the proportion of places at schools allocated on this basis is no more than about 10 per cent of the total," the letter said.

The letter was written in response to an enquiry about Langley Park Boys School in Bromley, Kent, which selects some pupils on the grounds of musical or sporting skill.

The letter, released by the advisory service Local Schools Information, increased speculation that the forthcoming education bill, or subsequent government amendments to it, would include measures to encourage selection in the grant-maintained sector.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that the disclosure was an alarming challenge to parental choice.

"It's the thin end of the wedge on the whole question of selection. We believe very strongly that if a school wishes to select pupils by reference to ability or aptitude then they must go through the established procedures, seeking permission from the education secretary."

The education department is blurring the edges and saying you can draw a distinction between academic and aesthetic subjects, which we would oppose."

Michael Barber, head of education at the National Union of Teachers, said that the ruling indicated an insidious return to grammar schools and secondary moderns. "It clearly paves the way for the reintroduction of the selective system which parents and teachers have in the past found abhorrent and educationally ineffective."

"Not all schools will be able to carry out selection in this way and you'll then see a two or three-tier system."

The education department said that the ruling was consistent with existing legislation and that the education bill would contain no provisions to change the policy.

"We have approved proposals from a small number of grant-maintained schools to admit pupils on the basis of aptitude for and ability in music, art and PE. But that is the sort of thing that the law has always allowed to local education authorities," a spokesman said.

Mr Patten clashed yesterday with town hall officials over the removal of surplus school places, which will be a central theme of the education bill.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities has advised councils not to help the government in its campaign to cut 800,000 places by identifying schools for closure until talks have been held with education ministers.

In a written response, Mr Patten said he hoped authorities would tackle the problem "more vigorously" and submit details of their plans by the end of November.

## Lamont confirms 'steer to growth'

Continued from page 1

would be redrawn to distinguish properly between capital and current spending, a distinction that would "help to underpin the commitment to infrastructure investment in the longer term".

Mr Lamont promised to publish a monthly report to make policy and interest-rate decisions clearer. The report, which would be released immediately after his regular meetings with the Governor of the Bank of England, would set out the information on which the government made its policy judgments, "showing the bad news with the good month by month".

The Chancellor also promised that future interest rate changes would be explained in detailed Treasury statements similar to the two-page explanation issued when rates were cut from 9 to 8 per cent two weeks ago.

Mr Lamont said the Treasury's economic forecasting record had been widely criticised and he announced the formation of a new independent forecasting panel, to be drawn from the private sector and the academic community. The panel will meet regularly and publish its assessment of economic conditions. The Treasury will maintain its own internal forecasting unit, but its view will in future be "only one of several which inform government policy".

His officials emphasised that the six to 12 panel members would "represent a full range of views about how the economy works", acknowledging that some commentators had described the Treasury's economic thinking as excessively dogmatic.

Mr Lamont also accepted that the first time that tighter plans for public spending and taxation could be used to control inflation and allow cuts in interest rates.

Diary, page 16



Hard times: John Patten, education secretary, and Norman Lamont arrive for yesterday's cabinet meeting

## Ministers battle over need for cuts and tax increases

■ The government's determination to protect capital programmes at almost any cost could lead to confrontation with workers in the public sector

MINISTERS are considering tax increases to be announced next month as part of their efforts to safeguard big capital projects and to prevent public borrowing spiralling out of control next year.

As the full cabinet debated for the first time a range of options for cutting spending, ministerial sources said that tax increases might have to be part of the package unveiled by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, in his autumn statement.

"It would not be outrageous to say a mini budget is an available option," one source said. It also emerged that some spending ministers were so shaken by the Treasury menu that they intend to put forward rival proposals of their own.

In the Commons, the prime minister also hinted yesterday that higher taxes could be part of the final settlement. Asked about a leaked ministerial memorandum about the taxation of invalidity benefit, he said MPs should wait for the

autumn statement for the answer to such questions.

Ministerial sources were insistent that no decisions about possible tax increases have yet been taken. But they indicated that the options ranged widely and that higher income tax was not ruled out. More probable are higher rates of National Insurance contributions which, if they are to be raised, are by convention included in the autumn statement.

Another front-runner, as Mr Major hinted, is the taxation of benefits. Invalidity benefit appears almost certain to be taxed from next April and child benefit could also fall into the net.

As the prime minister made clear in the Commons and Mr

Lamont said in his Mansion House speech last night, a key priority for the government is to insulate infrastructure projects such as road and rail building and the construction of new schools and hospitals. This is seen as one of the best ways of curbing job losses in the recession and of generally reviving the economy.

A higher tax take would enable ministers to press ahead with more of the planned projects without risking a big surge in borrowing, which would threaten to raise interest rates and bring a resurgence of inflation. Alternatively, and much less likely, revenue raised from higher taxes could be pumped directly into capital spending and the £244.5 billion ceiling

breached. The Treasury are determined to stick to this target but it appears that some ministers might be pressing for a mild relaxation.

In a further sign of the severity of the spending squeeze, the cabinet spent more than an hour examining possible savings designed to hit the £244.5 billion target without reaching any conclusions. Options are believed to include a 2 per cent ceiling on public sector pay rises, a freeze or lower than inflation rise in benefits, defence savings and cuts on planned growth in health and education budgets. Council tax bills next April are likely to be much higher than ministers initially hoped because the level of grants to town halls is being squeezed.

Downing Street later disclosed that the full cabinet will hold a series of meetings next week, starting on Monday, aimed at finalising Mr Lamont's package of cuts.

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Leading article, page 17

## Major goes for broke on Europe

Continued from page 1

Conservative whips have embarked on an intensive campaign to win back enough waverers to secure victory. They need to keep the tally of rebels below 30 to be sure of getting through.

The rebels, who were encouraged by Lord Tebbit last night to take the chance offered by the motion to postpone treaty ratification through defeating the government, said they were expecting a weekend of intense pressure from their constituency associations and fellow MPs. Many remained defiant. Christopher Gill, said Mr Major's move would not weaken his resolve: "I am happy it is a substantive motion, because we have the chance to defeat and get rid of the Maastricht treaty, which is unwanted and unneeded."

One young rebel, asked last night whether he still intended to vote against the government, replied: "I do not know. Until you go into the torture chamber you do not know how long you will last."

The cabinet decided its tactics after an hour-long discussion during which Mr Major was handed a letter from Paddy Ashdown setting out his party's conditions for backing the government. The decision was said to have been unanimous and all ministers to have spoken in favour of tabling the substantive motion.

Mr Major was buoyed up by having made a decision after days of doubt over strategy and clearly relished Labour's decision to turn the debate into a party political occasion. In the Commons he accused John Smith of "wriggling" on Europe and declared: "If you cannot keep your principles in opposition, you will stay in opposition."

Mr Smith hit back, saying it was a "bit rich" to be accused of a U-turn when Mr Major had made U-turns on devaluation, the ERM, pit closures and economic policy. But Mr Major's spirited showing delighted senior backbenchers, one of whom said he was "high on adrenalin".

Mr Major told the Commons that if Britain did not ratify the treaty "we would be sending a signal to investors from America, Japan and elsewhere that they cannot rely on our commitment to Europe."

Diary, page 16  
Leading article, page 17

## Secretary Virginia wins the name game

BY ALAN HAMILTON

HOW do you address a woman cabinet minister? Not, it seems, as Mrs Peter Bottomley MP, who has taken umbrage at receiving a letter addressing her as an appendage of her husband. Mrs Bottomley wishes it to be known among all who may be thinking of writing to her about hospital closures, false teeth, or indeed any matter at all, that her name is Virginia.

The source of the health secretary's irritation is *The Spectator*, a journal of opinion that likes to think it knows a thing or two. It does not, however, know Mrs Bottomley. She wrote the magazine a letter for publication, and it sent an acknowledgement, addressing it to Mrs Peter. So she wrote again to complain, and to apologise for a reference in her original missive to a *Spectator* columnist, Barbara Arriel, who happens to be the wife of its proprietor.

Mrs Bottomley's second letter, published in this week's issue, assumes that she should have referred to the said columnist as Mrs Conrad Black. Sarcastic wit is not extinct in the cabinet.

Virginia, David Williamson, editor of *Debutant's Peerage*, principal repository of wisdom on matters of title, said that because the lady in question was a privy councillor, her correct mode of address should certainly not include her husband's forename, and should not even include "Mrs". To *Debutant*, she is the Rt Hon Virginia Bottomley MP. As Mr Williamson pointed out, a certain other privy councillor was never referred to as Mrs Denis Thatcher.

There are many women in the Privy Council, including the employment secretary, who would presumably take it amiss to be addressed as Mrs Thomas Shephard rather than the Rt Hon Gillian. Barbara Castle was never Mrs Ted, nor Shirley Williams Mrs Bernard. However, Labour's deputy leader is not a privy councillor and may therefore, strictly speaking, be addressed as Mrs Lionel A. Beckett, although it is a reasonable assumption that she would not much like it.

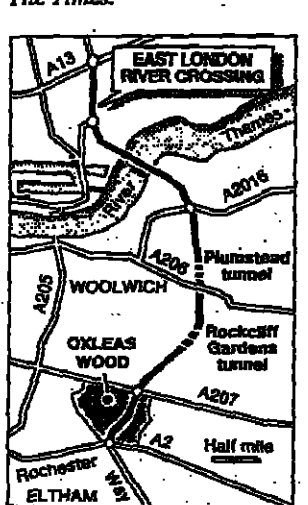
As for the whose Privy Council it is the form of address is definitely not Mrs Mountbatten-Windsor.

## EC prosecutes Britain over Docklands road

MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN Commission officials are preparing to prosecute Britain over a multi-million-pound Docklands road scheme running through Ockley Wood in southeast London.

A letter informing ministers of the Commission's intention to press ahead with its claim that the government failed to adhere to EC environmental safeguards over the scheme was delivered to the government within "five to 15 days", sources in Brussels have told *The Times*.



Michael Howard, the environment secretary, was asked about the dispute when he attended a seminar on transport and the environment yesterday. He indicated that the government would fight its case in the European Court.

The long-awaited letter will accuse the government of failing to carry out a satisfactory assessment of the environmental impact of the road scheme, which is part of a proposal to build a new bridge across the Thames at Gallions Reach in east London. It will be accompanied by a second letter, accusing the government of a similar violation of EC law over the construction of a BP installation in Falkirk.

The road will cut a 120ft corridor through a corner of the 8,000-year-old wood near Greenwich, which is a site of special scientific interest, and the last remaining piece of ancient woodland in the capital.

David Black, spokesman for People Against the River Crossing, the umbrella group for the protesters, said last night: "We hope the Commission will continue with the legal procedure as rapidly as possible."

## The fear that stalks London

CAITLIN Moran, a 17-year-old writer from Wolverhampton, came to London and was shocked by the poverty and despair she saw on the mean streets of the capital. "If I lived in London... I'd be scared and scared and scared," she writes in the Weekend section of *The Times* tomorrow. "City-dwellers all seem to have razor-wire strapped around their hearts and they move along as if something was pulling them towards an ultimate doom scenario."

Apart from Caitlin Moran's fresh and frightening eye on London, *The Saturday Times* is packed with the best of British writing — Jonathan Meades, Frances Bissell and Clement Freud on food and restaurants, Paul Heiney's *Farmer's Diary*, Peter Ackroyd on Philip Larkin's letters, Lynne Truss on Poppy Land, Jan Morris on California and Jane MacGibbon on wines for under £3, plus the wit of columnist Peter Barrow, Alan Coren, and Valerie Grove.

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## Girl of 14 obtains court order to 'divorce' parents

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

A GIRL aged 14 from Surrey has obtained a court order allowing her effectively to "divorce" her parents and move out of the family home.

In what is thought to be the first case of its kind in Britain, the girl instructed lawyers to seek the court order so that she could legally separate from her parents and live elsewhere.

The case comes just weeks after the publicity in the United States surrounding a boy, Gregory Kingsley, who divorced his parents so that he could be adopted by his foster parents. It is thought to be the nearest equivalent to that case which is possible under the Children Act 1989.

The girl, who cannot be identified, recently instructed the solicitors Hart Brown in Guildford and obtained legal aid for an *ex parte* application, which came up before a judge in chambers.

The judge granted her a

"prohibited steps" order, which prevents her parents removing her from her new place of abode. Philip Bennett, partner with Hart Brown who heads the family law department, said: "This case is a fascinating illustration of how the Children Act works."

"It would not have been possible under the old legislation. But the act gives the child a voice, independent from the parents. It enables a child to be directly represented so that the court can take account of the child's wishes."

Under the old legislation, the child could not have initiated proceedings, he added. The child's wishes could have been ascertained only through a guardian or "next friend". But the act enabled a child of sufficient age and understanding to instruct a solicitor to make applications independently to the court.

It is understood that the girl

took action to secure court approval for her new home because her parents, who are divorced, have in recent months become increasingly reconciled, with her father playing a greater role in family life. Her relationship with her father was not good and it was the prospect of his return that prompted her to move out of the home.

She has chosen to live with the family of her boy friend where she is regarded as a friend of the family and would be able to stay on even when, as is planned, he leaves home to go to college. She has been there for some six weeks.

The girl, described as mature and sensible and with a clear idea of what she wants, has also changed schools so that she can attend school where she is now living. She is studying for GCSEs and wants to do A levels and go to university.

In this country, the Children Act brought in the new principle of "parental responsibility", which means that parents cannot ever hand over or be rid of responsibility for a child, even if they separate.

However, the act also gave children for the first time a voice in family proceedings so that they could be represented on their own behalf, not just through their guardians. Children can also initiate proceedings with the leave of a judge, as here, if the judge considers they are of sufficient age and understanding.

The girl has not given evidence in court, although she may do so at the next hearing. Her wishes were ascertained by a court welfare officer who reported to the court.

A full hearing with all parties represented, including the parents, the woman with whom the girl is now living, and the girl, is scheduled for November 13, in chambers. The court will decide whether to grant a "residence order" enabling the girl to live at her new home indefinitely. The order would not be permanent; it would continually be reviewed by the court.

Her mother is seeking a "residence order" requiring the girl to return and live at home. This would have to be backed by a "prohibited steps" order, to ensure the girl complied and to stop her being removed.

Mr Bennett said: "The court will want to consider what is in the child's best interests, what is best for her long-term stability and security, and the question of the child's relationship with her parents. Parental responsibility cannot be removed, whatever arrangements are made. That is a basic principle of the act."

"If the order is made in favour of the child, it simply means different living arrangements. It is not a situation where the parents lose their rights." Nor was there anything to prevent the parents returning to the court with a different application.

Girl's plea, page 1

## Children new clients for America's lawyers

From Ben Macintyre in New York

THE debate over children's legal rights in America shows no signs of abating, less than a month after 12-year-old Gregory Kingsley "divorced" his parents in a Florida court.

At least two other children in the United States, inspired by the Kingsley case, have now filed similar suits against allegedly abusive or neglectful parents. But the avalanche of frivolous suits brought by children against their parents, predicted by right-wing politicians and others, has so far failed to materialise.

Gregory sought to terminate his mother's parental rights (his father had already conceded the case) so that he could be adopted by a foster family. The circumstances of the case were hardly remarkable. Thousands of children suffer similar or worse abuse and are legally removed from their parents' care. But the fact that the boy had made his own decision to file suit, contacted a lawyer and appeared on the witness stand made the Kingsley case unique.

The decision to uphold his suit and remove him from his mother's care, due to her history of alcoholism, drug-taking and general neglect, was hailed as a breakthrough for children's rights.

But many lawyers and child welfare agencies point out that rather than resort to law in order to settle family differences, more money should be spent on trying to keep families together. In America, \$2.3 billion (\$1.46 billion) is spent annually on foster care, while just \$274 million (\$174.522) is allocated for services to keep families from fragmenting. The number of children in foster care in America has grown by nearly 50 per cent since 1985, reaching 407,000 in 1990. Already



Kingsley: set precedent by 'divorcing' mother

the world's most litigious society, children now represent yet another source of income for America's abundant lawyers. Paediatric lawyers, a breed hardly known a decade ago, have become central to the process, by which children define what is in their own "best interests", or have them defined by others.

Some critics argue that allowing children to go to court independently leaves them open to further manipulation. American historian Christopher Lasch writes in this month's issue of *Harper's & Queen* magazine: "The notion that children are fully capable of speaking for themselves makes it possible for ventriloquists to speak through them and thus to disguise their own objectives as the child's."

The belief that children have independent legal rights is a modern one but the principle that children should enjoy the same rights as adults has been applied haphazardly in the US, varying from state to state, and resulting in a patchwork of legal rights that some child welfare agencies say is insufficient to prevent thousands of children from "falling through the cracks".

## More children expected to put their parents in the dock

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

CHILDREN are increasingly likely to start court proceedings in their own right as the full implications of the Children Act 1989 become widely appreciated.

Lawyers predicted yesterday that youngsters might instigate a wide range of actions, but said that cases like that of the Surrey girl, where children sought to remove themselves from their parents, would probably not be widespread.

The act, which came into force a year ago, enshrines the importance of the "voice of the child" in court proceedings. Children can, with leave of the court, initiate proceedings. They can also be represented in any proceedings concerning their future.

Valerie Kleanthous, spokeswoman for the Solicitors' Family Law Association, said that although the act had been in force for a year, its full effects were only just starting to be felt. "I don't believe there will be many cases where children are seeking orders to remove themselves from living with both parents, because usually the situation is that parents are separated," she said. "One or other of the parents is making the application and the child is happy to be with that parent."

Greater impact was likely to be felt in the so-called area of

public law, where children might not wish to have contact with either parent. Allan Levy QC, a specialist in child care law, said that in this field children and organisations were well appraised of their rights.

The government's ratification of the UN convention on the rights of children, he added, would also act as a spur to court actions. "I think we will see more cases, particularly among teenagers and those nearing 18, where children bring proceedings against themselves, particularly with such a high percentage of marriages breaking up," he said.

"In the past, children have been able to bring cases, but only through the Official Solicitor or a guardian *ad litem* acting as next friend. But increasingly children's rights are receiving more attention."

Elizabeth Lawson QC, a member of the Family Law Bar Association, said that a more likely area where the courts might see actions initiated by children was that of medical treatment, or on such matters as schooling. "There are all sorts of possibilities under the act, some of which might cause raised eyebrows: conceivably a child might contest a parent's refusal to give him or her a computer

game at Christmas, or being sent to boarding school or having to take part in games."

Under the act, the courts had power to make a "specific issues" order, she said. "Why, in principle, if a child is unhappy at public school, should she or he not be able to make an application for the court to deal with the specific issue of whether he or she should not be allowed to go to a day school and stay at home?"

Another possible area where children might seek orders was if they were being subjected to a particular religious upbringing. But Miss Lawson pointed out that restrictions existed which would in practice limit the kind of actions that came before the court. The child would have to obtain legal aid and also the leave of the court. In granting leave, the court considered whether the child was of sufficient age and understanding to bring the action.

She added: "It is very easy to get carried away with possibilities. The main thrust of the act was to give children whose future is being decided a greater or more structured opportunity to have their voice heard that was previously the case, and to participate and be represented."

## £1.5m high-tech system blamed for London ambulance delays

### Computer control of 999 calls reviewed

By Michael Horsnell

THE new head of London's ambulance service announced yesterday that he will review the future use of the £1.5 million control room computer alleged to have caused delays that may have contributed to the deaths of up to 20 people.

Martin Gorman, who took over as acting chief executive after the resignation of John Wilby on Wednesday, told ambulancemen that he would need several days to make a decision on the system. If it were abandoned, it would be the second write-off of a computer system in two years by the London ambulance service. A £7 million system was scrapped after five years in 1990.

Chris Humphreys, the London regional officer of Nupe, the ambulance staff union, said last night that he would hand over to Mr Gorman evidence of patients who died after delays in response to 999 calls. He would not disclose details. "I asked Mr Gorman for a top to bottom enquiry by him. We do not want his enquiry to concentrate solely on the problems of the computer, though that will have to be dealt with first."

Ambulancemen are operating the computer-aided dispatch system at a reduced level after its failure on Monday when it took over full control of the allocation of ambulances and the priority of emergency calls in London. The system now in use allows manual telephone override by control staff.

Ambulancemen say jobs should be allocated manually by radio and claim that the level of computerisation has contributed to 45 deaths since February. They called for a return to a manual system. The service said that no delays in attending emergencies were incurred yesterday. Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, has announced an independent review of the service.



Emergency ward: the nerve centre of the London ambulance service, now only partly run by computer

## A short, sharp lesson in accountability

John Wilby's resignation as head of the London Ambulance Service points the way out of a larger problem: the loss of confidence in the competence of government in Britain: a competence failure which could be life-threatening to John Major's administration.

The catalogue of systemic failures in British policymaking is lengthy. Public opinion is restless that ministers and civil servants seem adrift among profound and evident failings in their departments.

The recent examples are stark: the collapse of the mainspring of economic and monetary policy on Black Wednesday. The confusion and chaos on energy policy over pit closures. The doubts on banking regulation and supervision after BCCI.

This week's crime figures imply long-term shortcomings in Home Office policy. John Major's problem is that further manifestations of this syndrome could trigger a political crisis without putting right the machine that keeps breaking down.

This week's move sideways of Robert Priddle, deputy secretary responsible for ener-

gy policy, is unsatisfactory because it is shrouded in Whitehall secrecy. It implies that civil servants may begin to be held responsible for policy problems—but against no clear criteria. It would be unjust if failures in the machinery of government led simply to political crises or arbitrary changes in personnel, but not to meaningful change in the structures that keep leading Britain astray.

John Wilby felt responsible, and was seen to be responsible, because the structure of the London Ambulance Service is different from that of much of Whitehall, and especially its policy divisions. The LAS is effectively a health "agency".

This status placed him directly in a position of responsibility: closer to the detail than ministers, but senior enough to be visibly accountable for the strengths or weaknesses of the service he headed. This is the key to improving accountability elsewhere in the public service.

Current civil service policymaking is a seamless web in which nobody in the system is clearly and visibly responsible. Of course policymaking has many inputs: but it is simply not viable to argue that ministers are theoretically accountable, but not in detail responsible and never resign, whilst officials are merely their agents and never responsible for anything.

The Next Steps process of creating defined agencies to execute policy must now be extended into the core of the civil service which creates policy. New focuses of policy would spring up, such as a Monetary Policy Agency in the Treasury, an Energy Policy Board in the DTI and a Crime Reduction

Bureau in the Home Office—all identifiable, visible and accountable. These functions must be headed by officials who know that success would mean advancement and a new contract, failure departure with fair compensation; the principle already applies to the heads of the non-policymaking civil service.

Compensation is important. It is unfair to expect civil servants to resign if they would not receive the two or three years' salary typically offered to private sector senior executives who have to go.

Ministers themselves should not be immune from change. Professor Richard Rose has provided the solution. He proposes ministerial policy directorates at the top of departments which would bring together junior ministers, external advisers and civil servants in a policy team.

Unlike the French cabinet system, members have defined responsibility for areas of policy. In a really serious policy failure, the buck would stop there. □ Graham Mather is president of the European Policy Forum.

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## Appeal court cuts five-year prison sentence after studying psychiatric report

## Judges free battered woman who killed

By BILL FROST

A WOMAN sentenced to five years in prison last November for the manslaughter of her brutal and bullying former boyfriend was freed by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Janet Gardner, a grandmother aged 52, was released on probation after three judges heard of the violence and abuse she had suffered at the hands of Peter Iles. They agreed that she had spent long enough in jail to "expiate in some measure the guilt she must feel for the rest of her life".

Women's rights campaigners packing the public benches applauded loudly and Mrs Gardner's daughter, Louise Salib, wept as the decision was announced. As she left the court, Mrs Gardner said: "It is totally unbelievable. I did not dream I would be coming out today."

"There are so many other women in the same situation of violence. Something has to

be done before it reaches the same level that mine did." She added: "What happened should not have happened. No one has the right to take someone else's life, even though my life was in danger. I deserved to be punished."

She was jailed at Winchester by Mr Justice Swinton Thomas, who told her the sentence would have been longer but for the fact that she had been "provoked in the full sense of the word".

Yesterday, Lord Justice Leggatt sitting with Mr Justice Rafter and Mr Justice Sedley, said the trial judge had not had the advantage of the detailed psychiatric report on Mrs Gardner that had since been prepared.

Mrs Gardner, of Southsea, Hampshire, was shown to have been suffering from "battered woman syndrome", a state of hopelessness and depression following unrelenting physical and verbal

attacks. She felt stigmatised by the violence she had endured and had invented reasons for her injuries rather than blame them on Iles.

Mrs Gardner's relationship with Iles had been volatile, the judges said. There had been many violent incidents, including attempts at strangulation, and a knife attack. She no longer had the will to live but lacked the energy or strength to kill herself, according to the report before the court yesterday.

In September 1990, Iles grabbed Mrs Gardner by the back of the neck and banged her head against a door frame. She grabbed a knife to protect herself and stabbed him seven times.

Mrs Gardner's son Kevin said his mother had kept what was going on a secret. "I do not think she should have served any time at all. It would appear this court thought that as well."



"I deserved to be punished." Janet Gardner, flanked by her children Kevin and Louise, who never knew of the violence she endured

## DTI 'knew tools were for Iraqi arms plant'

By LIN JENKINS

A SENIOR civil servant warned the trade and industry department that "dirty washing" could emerge when Customs and Excise officials began to investigate breaches of the export ban on equipment for Iraq's munitions industry, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Paul Henderson, former managing director of Matrix Churchill, of Coventry, and Trevor Abraham of Leicester and Peter Allen of Coventry, both former directors of the company, each deny four charges of the export or potential export of prohibited goods.

Michael Coolican, assistant secretary at the department, wrote the letter in June 1990. Geoffrey Robertson QC, defending Mr Henderson, asked Anthony Steadman, an official in the department, what was meant by the term "dirty washing". Mr Steadman, who had received the letter, said he did not know.

Mr Robertson said the letter referred first to the decision to grant export licences in the knowledge that equipment worth £37 million would be used to set up two munitions factories in Iraq. Another aspect was that Alan Clark, then trade minister, had in a meeting with manufacturers indicated that licence applications should say the machine tools were for general engineering.

Mr Steadman had taken care not to write to Matrix Churchill in February 1988 telling them that their licences had been withdrawn as he wanted "nothing on record", he said. Mr Steadman replied: "There was nothing surreptitious about it."

The hearing continues today.

## Thames TV issues writ to secure C5 films

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THAMES Television has issued a High Court writ against the ITV Association as part of its fight to retain network films for transmission on Channel 5. It hopes to be awarded the licence for the new channel next month.

The legal action comes after Andrew Quinn, ITV's new chief executive, informed Thames that rights to such box office hits as *Commando* and *Cocktail* were reverting back to the association. Mr Quinn said that under the 1987 film agreement, Thames could sell its share of the rights only to Carlton, which takes over the London ITV licence on January 1. Thames has alleged that the 1987 agreement, which restricts the screening of films on channels other than ITV, is a restraint of trade.

Thames, which hopes to show the films on Channel 5 and all ITV regions except London on weekdays, denied yesterday that retention of the film rights was crucial to its bid for Channel 5. But a copy of its affidavit leaked to *The Times* said: "Thames' film rights constitute a very significant source of films available to Channel 5... films should take up one-third of the total programming time... in essence it will be a channel for which film material will be very important."

The association has until Monday to prepare its defence; the legal costs of which are expected to reach £120,000. A two-day hearing is expected in early December.

Golden oldies, page 15



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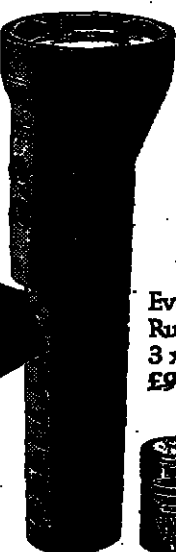


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## Car industry pay

## Jaguar staff gain 4% rise in efficiency deal

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

FOUR thousand staff at Jaguar yesterday accepted a 4 per cent wage rise to maintain their place as Britain's best paid car workers in spite of company losses of more than £176 million so far this year.

From Monday, assembly line workers will be paid an average of £285.10p a week with another 4 per cent, or an increase equivalent to the rate of inflation, from November 1 next year. That compares with the average daily rate paid at Ford, Jaguar's parent company, of £262 a week, £240 at Rover and £230 at Nissan.

The increases will set a benchmark for other car companies, including Peugeot Talbot and Nissan, which still have to make awards this year, and hundreds of thousands of workers who are expected to be offered, at best, minimum rises as the government tries to pin down public sector wages.

Rover car workers are also on a pay freeze but will vote next week on a 3.6 per cent rise to take effect from May

next year. Jaguar workers won their rise even though the business has struggled through two of the worst years in its history. Losses last year were about £200 million and the deficit for the first nine months of this year of \$300 million was announced at the Detroit headquarters of Ford the day before the deal was accepted.

The increases are expected to be paid from big efficiency gains offered by unions. Internal figures show that productivity at the company's Browns Lane factory in Coventry improved by 20 per cent last year and should improve another 30 per cent this year in return for the pay deal.

Jaguar executives were prepared for a battle, insisting that a deal would have to be earned by efficiency improvements. But negotiations proved to be among the quickest on record with unions anxious to co-operate to ensure the survival of the company.

Part of the pay package

means that the Coventry workforce is adopting "best in class" working practices equivalent to systems used by top Japanese manufacturers. There are now no demarcation lines and workers have accepted the terms of versatility and "multi-skilling", which means they will be ready to do almost any job anywhere in the factory.

Jaguar executives see the deal as a fair reward for employees who have seen sales fall by two-thirds from the peak of 1986 and the workforce reduced by about 3,000 in the past two years.

Jaguar said last night: "We are improving quality and efficiency at this company all the time. Progress has been remarkable and the workforce has co-operated in all the changes. This is not a pay deal which is ill thought-out or irresponsible but one which responds to the needs of the workforce and which has a payback for the business in productivity gains."



Power of speech: "The future of the church is at stake," says David Silk

## Battle lines drawn as synod nears

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF protagonists in the debate on women priests yesterday disclosed the arguments they will use at next month's General Synod. The result will hinge on the power of speakers on the day, according to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Ven David Silk, who will lead opposition to the ordination of women.

Mr Silk, joint chairman of the synod's house of clergy, will argue that the church needs a broader consensus before it abandons 2,000 years of tradition. He will contend that the shape of the legislation which has been framed will split the church.

"The future of the Church of England is at stake," he said. He spoke as Professor David McClean, a member of the steering committee that drew up the legislation, delivered a powerful lecture at Newcastle University, putting the case for women priests.

Professor McClean, chairman of the synod's house of laity and pro-vice-chancellor of Sheffield University, will be a key speaker in the debate. He said all the legislation was for the benefit of its opponents, except for one clause that makes it possible to change

church law so that women can be ordained.

He said: "The measure contains material designed to safeguard and respect the position of those who find the priestly ministry of women unacceptable."

The legislation, which needs a two-thirds majority from the bishops, clergy and laity to succeed, depends on about ten synod members in the house of laity changing their minds if it is to succeed. But Mr Silk said he believed that it could be rejected by the clergy, because some who were in favour had changed their minds.

In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, Mr Silk said: "My great fear is that people will see this as an issue to do with discrimination against women. What it is really about is the shape of this particular legislation, and what it will do to women and to the church."

The crucial argument was that the church could not claim to be part of the "one holy, catholic, and apostolic church" and at the same time take a step that would be a serious break with a tradition.

Leading article, page 17

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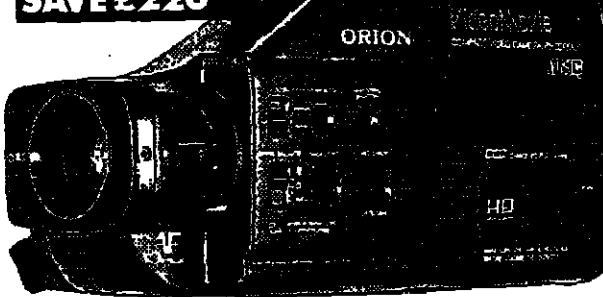
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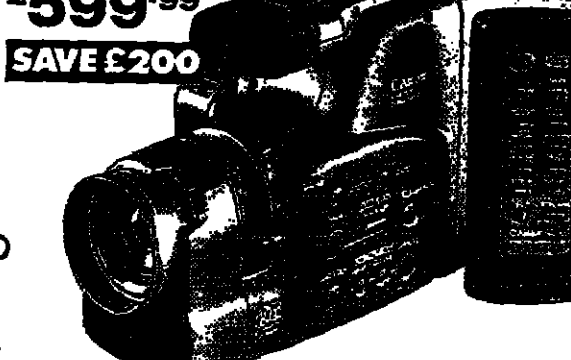


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## British Coal denies blocking off mines

British Coal last night denied claims by miners and companies hoping to take over pits that it was deliberately making it impossible to reopen some of its least profitable collieries. The corporation's critics have alleged that essential mining equipment is being removed from some of the ten pits whose future is being reviewed. A British Coal spokesman said: "We stand by our assurances that we will do nothing to jeopardise the future of the mines or prevent a colliery resuming production if it is decided that we should do so at the end of the 90 day period."

The head of one company that is in talks with British Coal about taking over some mining operations said that at Taff Merthyr, Mid Glamorgan, British Coal has given contractors 17 weeks to block off all underground passages before the shafts are filled in with stone. He said that staff at Taff Merthyr and in Nottinghamshire mines have been told that mines and equipment would be walled up unless British Coal could use the equipment elsewhere.

British Coal directors told the parliamentary trade and industry select committee hearing on Wednesday that equipment would be removed only when it was needed for use in mines still in production.

## Marriages fall by 4.5%

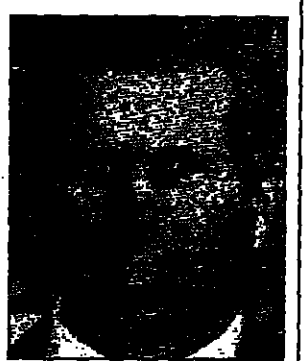
Marriages declined by 4.5 per cent in 1990, compared with the previous year, falling to 331,000, according to statistics issued yesterday by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. It was the largest decrease since the 4.9 per cent fall of 1981. Divorces rose by 2 per cent to 153,000 in 1990, almost equaling the record in 1985 after an easing of divorce law. The average length of marriages ended by divorce in 1990 was 9.8 years, nearly 24 per cent of divorces involved marriages of less than five years.

## Rural song for Europe

The Eurovision Song Contest will be held in an equestrian arena in a small village in co. Cork next year (Edward Gorman writes). For the first time in its 38-year history the competition is moving away from the glittering capitals and major cities of Europe to the rural north Cork/Kerry border. The competition will be held in the village of Millstreet (pop. 1,500) between Cork and Killarney. RTE, Ireland's state-owned broadcaster, chose the village after looking at a number of venues outside Dublin.

## Reporter honoured

Martin Bell, right, the BBC reporter, swapped his lucky white suit for mourning dress yesterday to receive the insignia of OBE from the Queen. Mr Bell, 54, who has covered 11 wars, said he wore the suit only in war zones and for superstitious reasons. The composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, 44, who was knighted, said: "I thought I was a bit young for it, but I am deeply grateful."



## Hotel standards slip

British hotel standards are falling in many areas, according to the RAC. Lyn Gray, hotel services manager, said at an awards ceremony in London yesterday that improvement programmes were being postponed, staff cut and housekeeping and maintenance standards lowered. The RAC inspectorate had recognised the industry's problems but some hotels still had lost their RAC merit awards this year. The Hyde Park Hotel in London was named five-star hotel of the year.

## Fox man's wife in court

The wife of Robert Wignall, believed to have been murdered last month as he fed fowls near his home, appeared in court yesterday when detectives applied for more time to question her about his death. Sandra Wignall, 47, appeared at Chertsey Magistrates' Court with two men, who are also being questioned about the murder of 55-year-old Mr Wignall, whose body was found last month in woodland near his home in Addlestone, Surrey. Mrs Wignall was arrested on Wednesday.

## Surgery cuts stroke risk

Between 500 and 1,000 people a year in Britain could be saved from having strokes by greater use of a proven technique, according to the Association of British Neurologists. An article in this week's issue of the *British Medical Journal* says that an operation to clear obstructions from the carotid artery in patients who have shown warning signs of stroke can cut the risk over the next two to three years by 75 per cent. Two international trials have shown the effectiveness of the method.



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## Our first anniversary British Christmas Catalog features values designed with you in mind.

As we see it, there could hardly be a more appropriate time to express our appreciation to you who so warmly welcomed us when we first invited your custom almost exactly a year ago. We were those strangers from America, remember? Who sold through catalogs via the post? Who knew?

Today—a year later—we've come to understand each other better. And Christmas is almost upon us—a season you taught us an awful lot about thanks to the Cratchits, Tiny Tim, and even Scrooge and his ghostly guests.

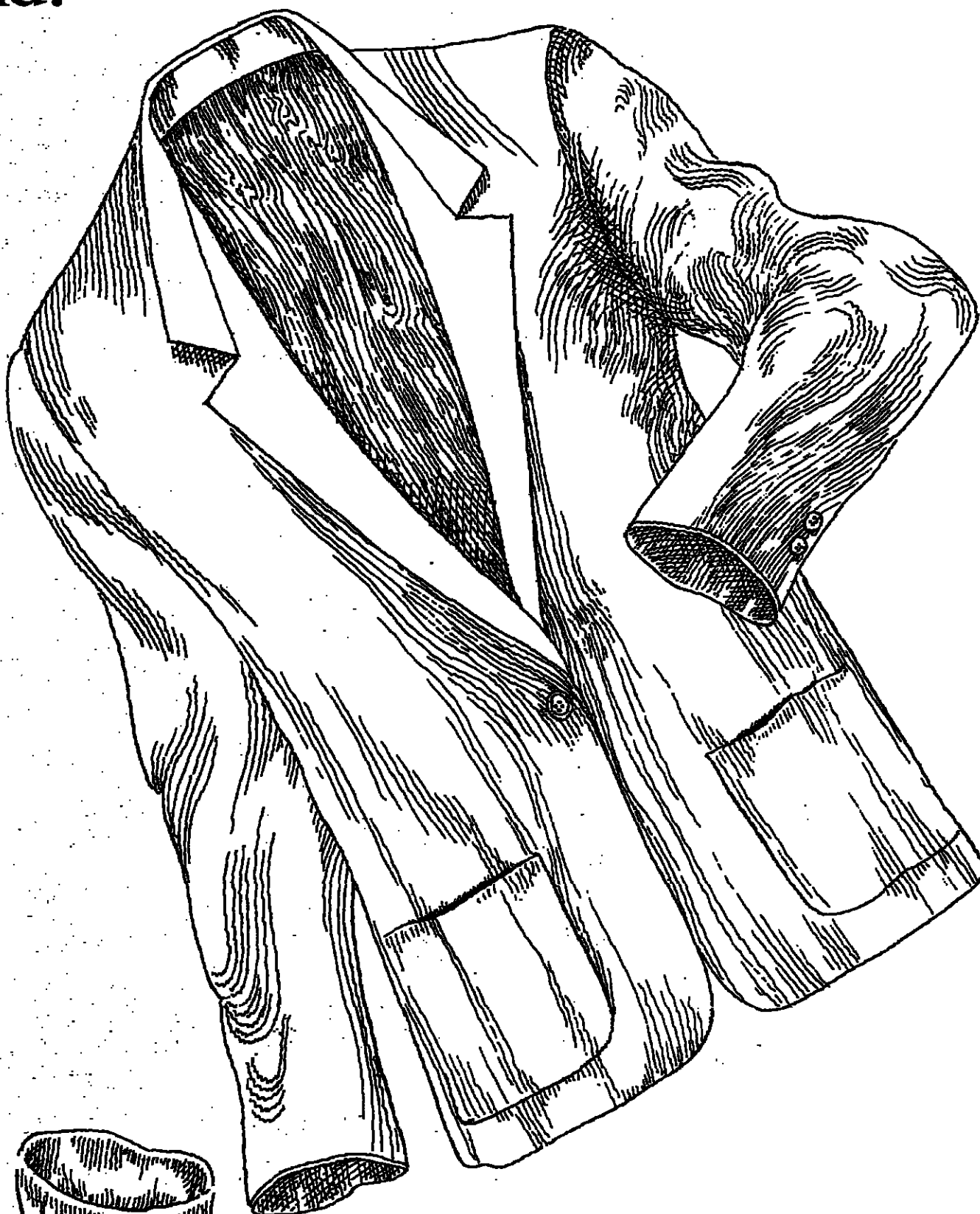
So, in appreciation of all this, as we compiled the beguiling collection of quality items that grace the more than 70 pages of this celebratory catalog, we've given the project more than usual thought. We've lavished our usual attention on the fabrics and construction invested in the products, but we've also considered their appropriateness for use here in Britain. Not to mention their suitability as gifts.

We've re-defined the word "value," too.

Our catalog is no competitor to the works of Dickens, but we submit that it will reward thoughtful reading in these days of wobbling international economies. Our Direct Merchant policy, for instance, lets us deal directly with you, without paying toll to the middlemen who clutter the average retailer's path from his factory to you. This lets us make of "value" a truly meaningful word, defined in pounds and pence, not stuff and nonsense. And our GUARANTEE is one of substance as well, leaving us no escape clauses in our promise to stand behind our every sale.

So, why not give at least a cursory reading to the "sneak-previews" of catalog values on these pages. They're subject to your order with a free phone call at 0800 220 106 to ask the operator for a catalog. She'll comply gladly. Or if you prefer to ponder further, use the coupon at right to reach us via post.

Now then, won't you please read on? It won't take long.



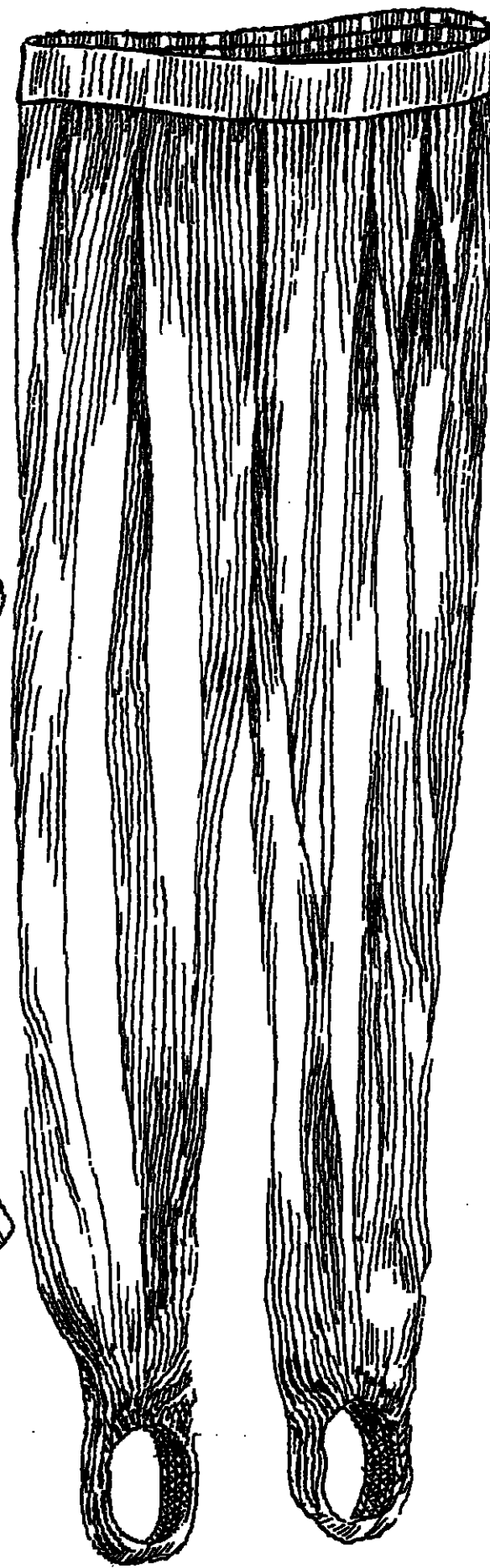
### 2. The Lands' End Melton Blazer: exquisitely tailored, yet simply priced at £95

Melton—the very birthplace of the original fabric is re-assuring: the famous Melton Mowbray fox-hunting area in Leicestershire!

Our version, of course, can't claim the cachet but it insists on the quality of its forbear, in that it is of 100% worsted wool, brushed to a properly dull, firm finish. It presents a close-cropped face with every vestige of softness erased, as it were. This process also prepares the fabric to take color beautifully. Trust us.

Once the fabric is in hand, we insist it be tailored to a rare, classic perfection. The finished jacket boasts a notched collar, soft shoulder pads, two patch pockets and the full lining you rightly deserve.

One well-positioned front button, two buttons on each sleeve and you have the Melton jacket tradition commands.



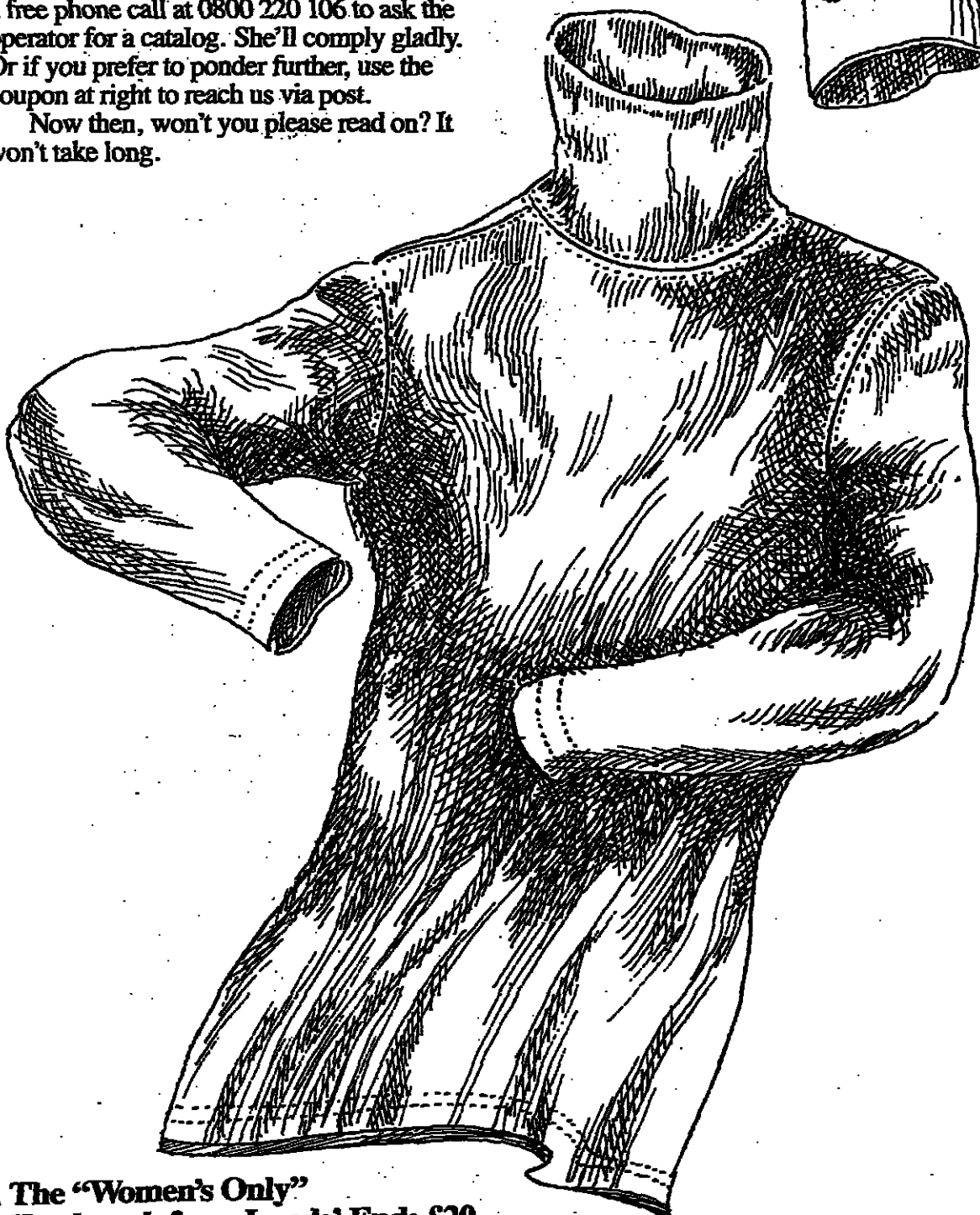
### 3. The Consummate Stirrup Pant: Lands' End—priced at just £29

Like so many things in life, the stirrup pant for women looks easy to make. A simple garment, surely. Fail-safe, what? Wrong!

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At Lands' End, we've provided a judicious fullness in the legs. Relaxed, yet flattering. A narrower elastic waistband with rows of stitching in back to prevent rolling. The front is smooth as it should be. The one-piece stirrup is more comfortable, as are the pants themselves with two front box pleats. Fabric: an idyllic 92% American cotton/8% Lycra spandex knit, bag-and-sag proof.

The wide variety of fits we provide should surely nudge you into ordering our catalog.



### 1. The "Women's Only" Turtleneck from Lands' End: £20

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a bit roomier cut with drop shoulders. Not to forget neat, double-needle topstitching.

The fabric: 100% combed American cotton interlock. Soft, breathable, and suited to all seasons, save summer at its worst.

And such British colors: Oatmeal Heather, Gray Heather, Charcoal Heather.

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# Home Office accused of hiding prison drug abuse

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

DRUG seizures in jails represent only the tip of an iceberg of drug abuse by prisoners that the Home Office is unwilling to acknowledge publicly, the chief inspector of prisons said yesterday.



Tumim: "Clear cases of possession are rare"

■ Soft drugs have taken over from cigarettes as the main currency in Britain's jails, with officers accused of turning a blind eye to drug barons

When Tumim said that illegal drug-taking remained a serious problem with new inmates frequently finding themselves in debt to "drug barons".

It was time for the prison service and Home Office to acknowledge the extent of drug-taking in prison and the difficulties confronting prison officers in attempting to counter drug abuse and smuggling. Some staff acknowledged the benefits of moderate amounts of alcohol and cannabis being available to prisoners, the report said.

Governors were most concerned with the presence of Class A drugs with the implication that, as long as abuse of soft drugs did not lead to serious difficulties, they would tolerate their presence. It was difficult to draw firm conclusions about drug abuse because the underworld in prisons asserted its own tight control. The chief inspector added that all those he met accepted that the occasional

prisoners during the night when staff supervision was minimal.

Figures released in February show that the number of people in custody for drug offences was 3,150 out of a prison population of 45,000. But the figures do not take account of those with previous convictions for drug offences or those with drug habits not linked to their conviction.

Judge Tumim said that senior prison officers in one prison had admitted that success in limiting drug-smuggling during visits could be achieved only at the expense of damaging relationships between staff, families and prisoners. "To do this was considered too high a price to pay. Society can no more expect total control over the presence of drugs in prison than elsewhere," the report said.

It added that without resorting to draconian measures such as forbidding free contact between visitors, there was no way of preventing drugs being smuggled into prison if a prisoner was determined to get illegal substances.

Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons April 1991-March 1992 (Stationery Office: £9.50)



In the spotlight: Aleksandr Rodchenko's tribute to the 35mm Leica camera

## Leica image sets record at auction

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND  
ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

THE record for twentieth century photography was smashed at Christie's in London yesterday when a stylised 1934 image of a woman carrying a Leica camera by Aleksandr Rodchenko, the Russian Constructivist artist, sold for £115,500 to a German collector. The top estimate had been £16,000.

"People were determined that particular image was the one they wanted," said Lindsey Stewart, a Christie's expert. The subject was the photographer Evgenia Lemberg.

The previous record for a twentieth century photograph was \$165,000, paid in April 1991 for a still life by the Mexican Tina Modotti.

□ A picture by the British artist Francis Bacon, who died in April, is expected to make more than £1 million at Sotheby's in London on December 3. *Study of a Nude* with a *Figure in a Mirror* is dated 1969.

□ Twenty watercolours by Adolf Hitler which belonged to Rodolfo Siviero, the Italian minister responsible for repatriating art treasures looted by the Nazis during the second world war, are being sold in Trieste on November 20.

## SOME CAMCORDERS HAVE MORE BUTTONS THAN SENSE.

## Computer traps company car cheats

By KEVIN EASON  
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S biggest hire company has set up a computer trap to catch company car cheats, who could be costing their firms £50 million a year.

Cowie Interleasing's investigators have uncovered hundreds of drivers "conning" their companies, and garages overcharging, confident that few companies checked bills being sent in by employees to cover repair and maintenance. In addition to misreporting their cars, some employees have been engaged in fraud, filling their spouse's cars with petrol using company fuel cards, even filling spare petrol cans for their own use or billing the company for having private cars repaired.

Cowie was asked by corporate clients, who lease 60,000 vehicles a year, to find a way of examining costs. The computer can check the average fuel consumption of a model of car to discover whether drivers are using too much petrol, which may indicate fraud or over-fast driving. Each garage invoice can be checked to discover whether cars are using too many tyres, brake pads or clutch cables and then find out the correct cost of replacement components.

Robert Blower, Cowie's corporate communications manager, said: "When the economy was booming, fleets allowed things to become slack and did not monitor the costs of their company cars."

"Now things are tight, they want to control their costs much more carefully. What we discovered was that 95 per cent of company car drivers look after their cars and do everything above board, but the other 5 per cent cost their companies dearly."

## Study links pills to heart death in women

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

YOUNG women who take tranquillisers or anti-depressants appear to have a 17 times greater chance of dying of a heart attack. The finding emerged in the course of an investigation at Oxford University of fatal heart attacks in women between 16 and 39, of which there are only about 50 a year.

The study, reported in this week's issue of *The Lancet*, covered all women in this age group in England and Wales who died of a heart attack between January 1986 and December 1988. The original purpose of the study was to investigate links between heart deaths and oral contraceptives, but GPs were also asked about other drugs.

The team, led by Dr Margaret Thorogood of the Department of Public Health and Primary Care at Oxford, found that the pill roughly doubled the chances of a fatal heart attack, though the numbers of women dying in this age group of heart attacks are low—about 50 a year.

Unexpectedly, the responses to the questionnaire also showed a much higher death rate among users of tranquillisers and anti-depressants. Because the study was not designed to study this possibility, Dr Thorogood says the results should be interpreted "very cautiously", but the association is so strong that it merits further study.

She says that women on tranquillisers or anti-depressants should not worry for the moment. "This study is not a reason for giving up the pills," she says. "But I do think the whole question should be looked at more closely to see if the association holds true."

## Fischer win puts him one game from title

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

BOBBY Fischer stands one game from victory in his chess championship match against Boris Spassky, after winning the 25th game in Belgrade on Wednesday night. He has nine wins to four.

Fischer selected one of the sharpest variations with the white pieces against Spassky's habitual Sicilian Defence. On the ninth move, the players castled on opposite sides of the board, indicating that there would be a violent race for each side to destroy the enemy king. Fischer's fifteenth move, hurling a knight on to a heavily defended enemy

square, was a big surprise, but it turned out to be a stroke of genius. Thereafter, his attack gained momentum with every move and, by the twentieth, it was clear that his concentration of force would be decisive. Spassky resigned on the thirty-fifth move.

□ Michael Adams, 20, the grandmaster from Truro, Cornwall, scored the greatest success of his career in the international chess tournament in Tilburg, Holland, defeating the Russian grandmaster Boris Gelfand in the final.

Game 25: final position

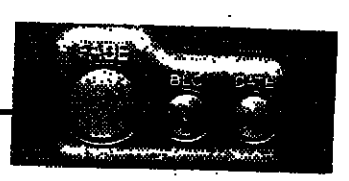
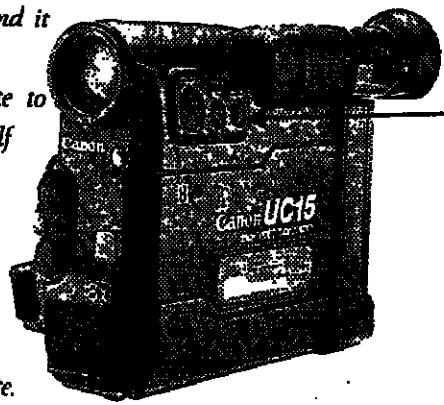
Black resigns

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Auto White Balance is courtesy of our new 48 zone 'white extraction' principle (very interesting).

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## European court upholds women's right to information on clinics in Britain

## Irish ban on abortion facts is ruled illegal

BY EDWARD GORMAN  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish government was yesterday found guilty by judges in Strasbourg of a fundamental breach of human rights for preventing women from having access to information about abortion clinics in Britain.

In a verdict that was applauded by women's groups in Ireland and Britain but criticised by the pro-life lobby, the European Court of Human Rights dismissed Irish government claims that the ban was necessary to uphold the pro-life clause in the nation's constitution.

Rolv Rissdal, the Norwegian president of the court, said the restraint imposed on giving information to the estimated 4,000 Irish women who seek abortions outside Ireland every year was disproportionate to the aim of the pro-life clause. He said the

### Women's groups are celebrating after the European Court of Human Rights overruled an Irish ban on access to details of abortion clinics

court accepted that individual national authorities in the Community had "a wide margin of appreciation" in moral matters, but Ireland's attempt to block information to pregnant women, regardless of their age or state of health, was "over broad and disproportionate".

The court awarded costs and damages totalling £195,000 to Open Door Counselling and the Dublin Well Woman Centre, which were banned from providing information by the Irish Supreme Court in 1988 and subsequently appealed to the European Court.

The judgment had been

expected in Dublin for some time. The Irish government has already moved to bring its constitution in line with European law by including, in three constitutional referendums to be held in early December, language affirming the right of women to abortion information.

However, the referendum language did not arise directly from the Well Woman and Open Door case but as a result of a Supreme Court judgment earlier this year in the case of a 14-year-old rape victim who was allowed to have an abortion in Britain after initially being prevented by the High Court.

Recent opinion polls suggest the information wording and related wording on the right of women to travel abroad will be carried by a large majority in December.

In Dublin, staff at the Well Woman Centre, who have battled for seven years for the right to counsel women seeking terminations abroad, appealed to the government to change the law immediately.

Caroline McCamley, the chairwoman, said the centre was seeking legal advice on when and how it could resume its services. She said the provision of information on abortion did not cause women to seek terminations, as the pro-life lobby had claimed.

Ruth Riddick, director of Open Line Counselling in Dublin, said: "It has been a long haul since 1985. We have been seven years waiting for this judgment. It looks to me now that we are back on the road of seeing non-directive pregnancy advisory services for Irish women."

"As full members of the European Community, we must be in a position to provide information about services lawfully available within the Community."

Tony O'Brien, the chief executive of the Irish Family Planning Association, said the decision vindicated the stand taken by many women's groups against what he called the "irresponsible and anti-humanitarian policy of the Irish government."

The pro-life lobby attacked what it interpreted as another step down the road to the institution of abortion referral services in Ireland. Marie Vernon, spokeswoman for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, appealed to the government to ignore the judgment, which she believed would not be backed by a majority in the December referendum.



Seven-year fight: Ruth Riddick, director of Open Line Counselling, which was awarded costs and damages

## Nature fund fears loss of ancient forests

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

NINETY per cent of the world's ancient temperate forests in lands outside the former Soviet Union have now disappeared, the World Wide Fund for Nature has announced. Much of what remains is under threat, the fund said, in a report believed to contain the first estimate of its kind.

Countries severely affected include Scotland, which now has only 1 per cent left of its natural forest cover — forest that was not planted by man — and 80 per cent of that is threatened by over-grazing of sheep, cattle and red deer, much of which is government subsidised, says the report.

Current forestry practices are deplorable in most temperate countries, and must be improved, Chris Elliott, WWF's senior forests officer, said. "Acid rain, pollution, inappropriate legislation and the conversion of old growth forests to plantations are all having a severe impact on these eco-systems."

The Forestry Commission yesterday announced that it was setting up a new advisory panel to examine threats to native woodlands in the Scottish Highlands and determine what steps were needed to protect and expand the forests. Improving standards of woodland management was one of the commission's key policies

## Satellite points way to cinema's future

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE death of the celluloid film and its traditional projectionist is being predicted by engineers who have unveiled a method for transmitting films to cinema screens via satellite.

Film-goers in parts of the country such as the Highlands, who often have to wait months to see the latest releases, could soon be seeing them at the same time as Londoners and New Yorkers.

The possibility of satellite cinemas is emerging with the development of digital satellite broadcasting techniques and high-definition television technologies. Engineers at the European Telecommunications Satellite Organisation in Paris (Eutelsat), of which BT is Britain's representative, have been carrying out studies into the technology and costs.

Philipp Rousseau of Eutelsat said that so far the equipment needed to display an image of 35mm film quality could fill only the smaller cinema screens and was very expensive. However, he said that it could be a matter of only three to five years before technology and costs improved to rival traditional film distribution. The technology might be seen sooner in independent cinemas.

The potential for satellite cinemas was demonstrated in London this week. An audience at a BBC studio watched a widescreen film version of Kenneth Branagh's *Henry V*, transmitted by BBC engineers at Kingswood Warren, Surrey, via a geostationary Eutelsat satellite.

Infotech, page 33

## Judge cuts school sex sentences

The headmaster and teacher jailed for ten years for sex assaults on young boys after the offences were exposed by the television programme *That's Life* had their sentences cut to six years by the appeal court in London yesterday.

But it dismissed appeals against conviction by Philip Cadman, 74, who owned Crookham Court School near Newbury, Berkshire, and William Pinner, 36.

Lord Justice Watkins said both men had been of good character and their careers were ruined. "Cadman is now an old man. The sentence is crushing on him," he said. The court saw no reason to distinguish between the appellants.

## Duke fined

The Duke of Westminster was fined £250 with £25 costs by Tynedale magistrates at Hexham, Northumberland, yesterday after he admitted driving at 91mph in a 60mph zone.

## Mugger flees

A man who hit a woman's head against a wall in a car park at Brighton, East Sussex, after trying to grab her handbag, fled and told a passer-by to call an ambulance. The mugger was white, aged 25, and 5ft 6in.

## Museum piece

A 20ft Cruise missile with its launcher and transporter gone on display at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, Cambridgeshire.

## Paraglider dies

One of Britain's leading paragliders, David Sigorney, 37, was killed in Lanzarote when a gust of wind caught him as he was helping a student.

## Turkey banned

New food hygiene regulations have forced schools in Norfolk to reject the traditional offer of free Christmas turkeys from the county's farmers.

## Ring of the new

Britain's first public telephone to run on solar and wind power has been installed at Sandhaven, Grampian.

## Watchdog's bark is worse than its bite

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE European Court of Human Rights boasts a 95 per cent rate of compliance with its rulings by member states of the Council of Europe. But there are few sanctions by which states can be brought to book if — as happened with the Irish government — they drag their feet over implementation and take years to introduce the relevant legislation.

Michael O'Boyle, an official at the court in Strasbourg, said that there had been no cases where governments had refused to comply, although occasionally governments had taken years to implement rulings.

One was a Belgian case in the early seventies concerning the country's laws on rights of succession and how these discriminated between legitimate and illegitimate children. The court found multiple breaches of the convention and it took the Belgian government some 12 years to bring in the corrective legislation.

The British government, which has one of the worst records in terms of the number of cases brought against it, has nonetheless proceeded to comply with the rulings. Changes in the law have been prompted in such areas as prisoners' rights, contempt, immigration, telephone tapping, terrorist laws and corporal punishment.

The committee will summon a government if it regards it as being party to complicity, or if the legislation falls short of enshrining the spirit of the court's judgment. If a country proved obdurate,

which has never happened, it could be expelled from the Council of Europe. More realistically, once countries are signatories to the European Convention on Human Rights, there is a moral duty to comply with its principles, coupled with the pragmatic need to maintain a good image with the European Commission.

David Pannick QC, a specialist in European and human rights law, said: "As is generally the case with international law, it is the practicalities that matter. If a government does not comply, an individual could bring it back before the court again. But what is more compelling is the fact that governments depend on the goodwill of the commission and court as new cases come up and it does not assist them if they are seen to have defied the court's previous judgments."

There is a view that the Committee of Ministers could be seen to take a far tougher line than it does with renegade governments. "It allows itself to be soft-soaped," one observer said. "It is not particularly rigorous in the exercise of its functions."

In yesterday's case, the problem of implementation was probably academic. Polls in advance of the proposed referendum have indicated widespread public support for the right to information (such as on abortions) and the right to treatment, and the Irish government has indicated it is willing to see such laws come to pass.

## Business park wins award

BY JOHN YOUNG

A BUSINESS park in Newcastle upon Tyne, recently built on what was a derelict and contaminated 60-acre site formerly occupied by an engineering and armaments factory, is named today as the joint winner of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' annual environmental awards competition.

The site was acquired in 1981 by the city council, which hoped to sell it for mixed development, but its scheme was a failure. Five years ago the site was handed over to the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation which, in partnership with Dysart Developments, created

670,000 sq ft of offices and light industry, said to be the largest business development in the North of England for 50 years.

The judges said the development has "engendered business confidence in the region and improved external perceptions of the city of Newcastle. A gifted team has created a pleasant working environment out of derelict land."

The other joint winner of the award is the Canning Street conservation area in Liverpool, which was at the centre of the Toxteth riots in 1981. It comprises probably the finest example of Georgian residen-

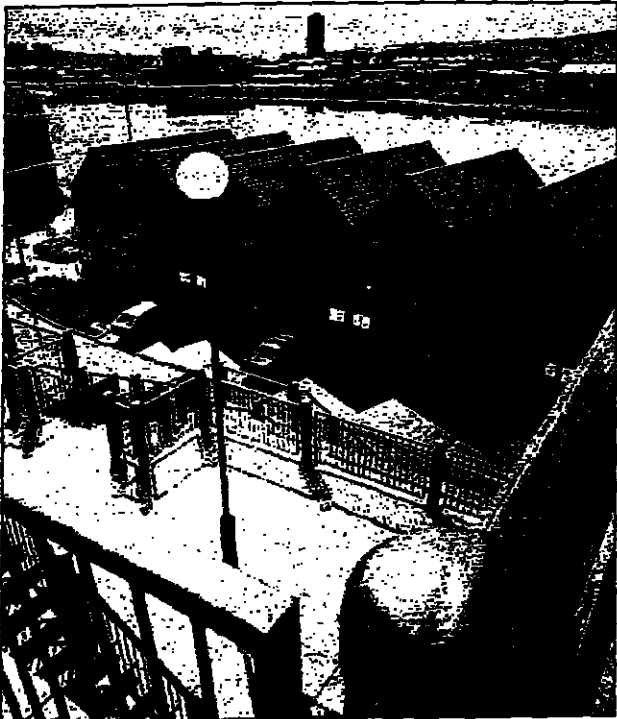
tial terraces in northern England. The area has received substantial financial assistance from English Heritage, whose chairman, Jocelyn Stevens, nominated it this week as a cause for particular pride.

The Rics building conservation award goes to the British Railways Board for the modernisation of Liverpool Street station which, the judges said, "was perhaps the most unenviable of the London termini until the present project was undertaken". The beauty of the original architecture has been adapted for modern use, with no diminishment of its original quality, their report says.

The restoration of the west doorway of King's College chapel, Cambridge, receives the craftsmanship award. Earlier repairs to the magnesium limestone had been largely unsuccessful, but the new work was described as "exemplary".

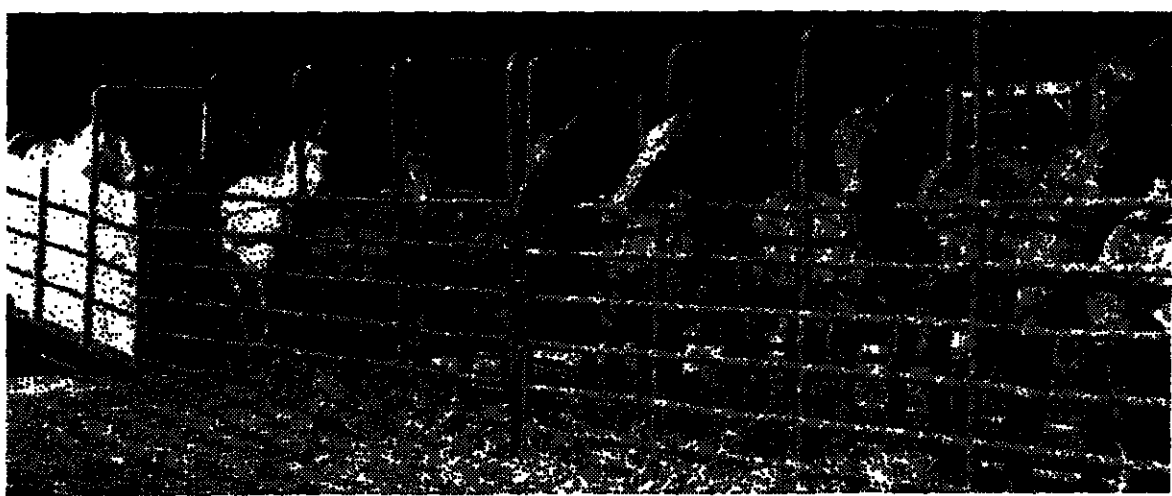
The winner of the most efficient building award is Stansted airport, Essex, which has had wide public acclaim. In the judges' words: "The atmosphere is of cool efficiency, which promotes confidence in its users and reduces the tension and stress involved in air travel."

Success in urban renewal demands a mixture of visual quality, social and economic benefit and contribution to the needs of individuals and communities, the report says. Single use "ghettos", where an office block or housing estate monopolised the landscape, have impoverished urban life. Today's best developments integrate housing with businesses, shops and leisure facilities, helping to generate a sense of community, it says.



Born again: the offices built on derelict land

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# Britain pushes for compromise over Maastricht treaty

BY MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR  
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BRITISH officials yesterday expressed confidence that negotiations can begin immediately on Denmark's proposals for amendments to the Maastricht treaty as soon as these are handed over to the British presidency of the European Community.

The proposals are to be endorsed by the Folketing, the Danish parliament, today, and will be officially forwarded to Britain by Monday. Britain will then table a prompt discussion by EC foreign ministers at their next meeting in Brussels on November 9.

Whitehall officials, embarrassed by the inadvertent disclosure of a Foreign Office memorandum last week which raised doubts over the willingness of other EC states to accept Denmark's demands, yesterday predicted tough negotiations among the Twelve but said agreement was likely before the Edinburgh summit.

These hopes were immediately dampened by Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, who said Denmark could not have the legally binding agreements it

Despite the scepticism of Jacques Delors, British officials are confident of agreement on European union

is seeking to add to the Maastricht treaty. "You can only solve the Danish problem by adding interpretative declarations, you cannot add a protocol because it has the value of a treaty," he said.

British officials have long recognised this difficulty, but hope that some legal loophole can be found that could give EC declarations sufficient weight to satisfy the Danes without reopening the Maastricht negotiations.

Britain will put forward options and suggestions at an informal conclave of foreign ministers for which no date has yet been fixed. Officials were anxious yesterday to underline Britain's positive assessment of the Danish proposals, which they hope will be received by other members in an atmosphere that will encourage compromise.

"Our task as president is to have a real negotiation without too much disruption," one said. The Danish proposals did not set things in concrete, and although some states

would object to some aspects — France, for example, was unlikely to agree to a Danish opt-out from a common defence policy — there was enough room for manoeuvre and compromise.

The government's embarrassment at the gloomy initial assessment of the proposals was mitigated by the ratification of Maastricht yesterday by Italy and Spain.

In Madrid three members of the political wing of the Basque separatist organisation Eta, in only their second appearance in parliament, were the only MPs to vote against ratification yesterday. After the two-hour debate, Felipe González, the prime minister, said: "From the government's point of view it is very satisfactory that the Congress has authorised the ratification of this treaty that without doubt closely unites the future of Spain with the future of Europe."

Italy ratified the Maastricht treaty with a resounding vote of support in the lower house of parliament. The Chamber of Deputies voted 403 in favour of ratification, 46 against with 18 abstentions, to give the definitive seal of approval to the treaty, which is seen as a vital source of discipline for the country's chaotic public finances.

Italian opinion is overwhelmingly pro-Community and there has been little soul-searching over the potential loss of sovereignty inherent in European economic and monetary union. The Senate approved the treaty on September 17, just before France voted in a referendum on the issue. Prime minister Giuliano Amato described the hurried Senate vote as a means of "giving a helping hand to our French friends".

Leading article, page 17

## Treasury concedes lower tax on lottery

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TAX levied on the national lottery should be less than 20 per cent, the Treasury has conceded. National heritage ministers have won their case for a far lower rate of tax than the 37½ per cent duty imposed on the football pools, although the exact level has not yet been settled.

The Treasury has agreed that the lower tax will maximise the proceeds to be spent on "good causes", covering the arts, heritage, sports, charities and the government's millennium fund.

Peter Brooke, the national heritage secretary, is planning to publish the national lottery bill in early December. The tax rate will be set in a future finance bill.

So far amendments tabled to the European Communities (amendment) bill, ratifying the Maastricht bill, run to 64 pages. The back-of-the-envelope estimate done by whips on the length of the committee stage scrutiny starting next month stands at 250 hours.

Predictably the most prevalent signatories are the two groups of Euro-sceptics on the

Conservative and Labour benches who are demanding a referendum and widespread changes to retain powers within the British Parliament.

As disclosed in *The Times* yesterday, the employment bill, the latest tranche of restrictions on trade unions, has been held up for fear of provoking public outrage. The paving bill for British Rail and British Coal privatisation has also been pulled in the Lords until the protests over pit closures fade.

Business managers predict a tough time with a range of other measures recently introduced. Grumbles from Tory MPs and peers have already been directed at the leasehold reforms in the massive housing bill, which will force many landlords to sell their properties to tenants, and Kenneth Clarke's re-drafted and re-introduced asylum bill.

The new criminal justice bill starting in the Lords has met with protests from banks that the tighter regulation on insider dealing and money laundering could inadvertently penalise bankers.

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## Turmoil suits Ashdown the warrior

BY PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

Paddy Ashdown is temperamentally an activist, who thrives on a fast-changing political scene. So he sees opportunities for his party in the current turmoil, as well as obvious dangers.

Talking in his Westminster office about the current political scene, he soon returns to the military and naval metaphors of his Marines career. A third party such as the Liberal Democrats is, he says, like a guerrilla force which has to be quick on its feet and willing to manoeuvre. He has no specific battle plan.

"The superstructure of the Major government has been shot away but it has not been holed below the waterline. The prime minister's credibility has suffered enormous damage but it is not irreparable. John Major should not be underestimated. He has a sharp political brain; if the economy comes right, he could come out ahead," he suggests.

Mr Ashdown's test for the government's motion in next Wednesday's debate has been

whether it is seen as advancing Britain's position in Europe rather than as a vote of confidence. John Major's carefully worded answer during questions yesterday to the Liberal Democrat MP David Alton about judging the motion on "its merits" meets Mr Ashdown's test, and should mean that 19 out of the party's 20 members support the government motion.

Labour is already accusing Mr Ashdown of propping up an unpopular government and "lots of letters" of protest have been sent in to party headquarters. But he believes there are advantages in the Liberal Democrats being known as the party in favour of Europe. The party has, he suggests, to adopt a "tough and clear position", and not just to act as a receptacle for protest votes.

Mr Ashdown angered many in his own party with his Chard speech five months ago when he talked about forming links with groups in other parties and outside the party structure. They feared

that talk of Lib-Labbery would damage the Liberal Democrats, though the party's current stand on Europe alongside the Tories helps to answer that charge, while exposing him to attack from the opposite direction.

He is critical of John Smith for taking Labour's traditional line, but claims that his own party is moving in the direction of a more open politics. Others see the cause of co-operation between the parties as having been set back by inward-looking party conferences. Mr Ashdown has privately complained that the party's conference in Harrogate showed signs of the "silliness" of the old Liberal party, and the influence of the former SDP at the top of the party has been reduced in recent elections to its internal committees.

Mr Ashdown sees opportunities for the Liberal Democrats because he believes the public does not trust politicians generally at present.

The protesters in Middle England objecting to pit closures are not refighting Arthur Scargill's battles of the 1980s but are demanding "something to be done about the condition of the nation".

The task, he says, is to attract those saying "a plague on all your houses". He points to Bill Clinton's appeal to American voters to have the courage to make a change, before mentioning and then distancing himself from Ross Perot's anti-politics theme. Part of Mr Ashdown is, however, attracted to such an anti-politics campaign. On economic policy, for instance, he suggests that the party's stance should be midway between Ross Perot and Stafford Cripps — between frankness about the economic situation and the austerity.

The party's stand during the Gulf war is, he says, the model. This was the time when people said about Mr Ashdown's comments, "That's what I wanted to hear said."

## Tory grandees break cover to defend European policy

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE spectacle of Tory grandees lowering themselves to the politics of the pressure group is a measure of government desperation about the outcome of next week's vote on the Maastricht treaty.

For months, the self-effacing knights of the shires have left the running over European policy on the Tory benches to a hard core of well-trained anti-federalist guerrillas. Under the doughty generalship of hardened veterans such as Sir Teddy Taylor, William Cash and Michael Spicer, the "irreconcilables", as they are known throughout Westminster, have devoted almost every waking hour to supplanting John Major's hopes of putting Britain at the heart of Europe.

With support from their Labour counterparts, they have tabled some 400 amendments to the bill ratifying the Maastricht treaty. They have also embarrassed the party hierarchy with two Commons motions calling for a "fresh start" over Europe.

Pressure group politics are anathema to the silent knights of the Commons smoking room. They prefer to work through the old boy network. But with the anti capturing all the headlines, they have been compelled to break cover. The battle for Europe on the Tory benches has traditionally been a contest between two long-established groups. The Conservative European Reform Group, founded and run by Sir Teddy, dates back to 1980. For many years it devoted itself to exposing the lunacies of the common agri-

cultural policy and the cost of Britain's contribution to the EC budget. In recent times it has switched its attention to what Mrs Thatcher called the "nightmare" of the European super-state.

Although the group claims a membership of 85 MPs, its active strength appears much smaller. Its best-known figures are Nicholas Budgen, Bill Walker, Richard Shepherd, and Anthony Marlow.

The CERG overlaps with the "Fresh Start" brigade led by Michael Spicer, a former minister. The core of this group is many of the 22 Tories who voted against the second reading of the Maastricht bill in May. The 22, first known as the "suicide squad" at Westminster, have vowed to oppose the bill at every turn. Their leaders are in charge of plotting the parliamentary tactics against the treaty.

James Cran, MP for Beverley, and Christopher Gill, MP for Ludlow, are the group's



Spicer, leading the Tory "fresh start" brigade

unofficial "whips" and Mr Spicer's chief advisers on ways of maximising the rebel vote.

The other side of the European fault line is dominated by the Conservative Group for Europe, whose roots lie in the 1975 referendum on Britain's continued membership of the then Common Market. The group had become moribund under the chairmanship of John Butterfill, MP for Bournemouth West. Ian Taylor, parliamentary aide to William Waldegrave, is trying to revive its parliamentary arm and plans a meeting at the Commons next week on the eve of the crucial vote. Hugh Dykes, who can make Jacques Delors look like a sceptic, is one of its most prominent members.

Loosely based pro-European groups are also being formed. Ray Whitney, a former minister, and Sir Anthony Grant, a respected member of the 1922 executive, hosted the inaugural meeting of a group known as Friends of Maastricht on Tuesday night. The gathering was attended by about 40 MPs. Yesterday many of those present, led by the courtly Sir Peter Emery, MP for Horsham, wrote to *The Times* claiming that a tiny minority, no more than 10 per cent of MPs, were trying to undermine the prime minister.

In the hectic few days left before next Wednesday's vote, the rebels will operate like a guerrilla band, harassing the combined forces of the whips' office regulars and the returned servicemen of the hastily formed gentlemen's militia.

## Why it may pay to complain

BY ROBIN YOUNG

OF 100 investigations by the parliamentary ombudsman between March and August this year, 62 were upheld in full and others in part.

The investigations covered 19 different government departments and five other public bodies. The department most complained against, and most frequently found at fault, was the Department of So-

cial Security: 46 cases, 29 were upheld. Among the cases set out in a report published yesterday, one involved a man £9,346.94 after accepting that he had been wrongly advised that his invalidity benefit payments would continue if he emigrated.

In another report published today the Comptroller and Auditor General, Sir John Bourn, says that HM Customs and Excise collected some £62 billion net in

taxes and duties in 1991-2, and the Inland Revenue nearly £101 billion.

Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, Second Report Session 1992-93, Selected Cases 1992, Vol 3, HC202, HMSO, £14.35. Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General, Appropriation Accounts (Volume 12: Classes XVII to XX), 1991-92, HC 197, £15.40.



## Aircraft may guard convoys

Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, would not rule out the possibility of air strikes to protect British troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

As an advance guard from the Cheshire Regiment left Germany to escort food supplies into northern Bosnia, Mr Rifkind told a Commons select committee that he could not exclude the possibility of using aircraft to protect military convoys.

He added: "There is no evidence to suggest that any UN forces are likely to be exposed to high-intensity attack." Mr Rifkind said that the initial cost of deploying British troops would be £17.5 million, rising to £110 million full-year costs for sending 2,400 troops. The cost would be borne by the UN.

Death knell, page 11

## BR pledge

The government is to publish a series of consultation papers about the privatisation of British Rail, John MacGregor, the transport secretary, told MPs. Before the end of the year there will be proposals on access and charging and others will follow on safety, restructuring of the freight business and other issues. The main bill to privatise the railways is expected to be out by the end of November or early December.

## Ulster hope

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, assured MPs that talks over Northern Ireland would not collapse in advance of next month's Anglo-Irish intergovernmental conference. It was "entirely practical to reach a successful conclusion" before the British and Irish governments meet on November 16, he said. "There is something quite new in the strength of public opinion demanding that politicians get something together."

## Security costs

The cost of the work to improve security at 10, 11 and 12 Downing Street is expected to be about £76 million, John Redwood, the local government minister, said in a written reply. The work is nearly complete.

## £3bn gamble

About £3 billion was spent on gambling in 1991-2 according to government figures.

## In Parliament

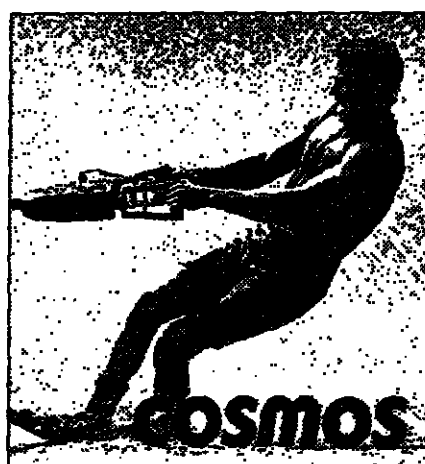
Commons (9.30): Debate on sport.

## PARLIAMENT NEXT WEEK

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: asylum and immigration appeals bill, second reading.  
Tuesday: housing and urban development bill, second reading.  
Wednesday: motion relating to the European Communities (amendment) bill.  
Thursday: civil service (management functions) bill, second reading.  
Friday: debate on the Bingham report on BCCI.  
The main business in the Lords is expected to be:  
Monday: European economic area bill, second reading.  
Tuesday: criminal justice bill, second reading.  
Wednesday: Lib Dem debate on measures needed for sustained economic growth.

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# Fascist successors herald the death knell for Bosnia

FROM ADAM LEBOR  
IN SPLIT

THE eruption of fighting between Bosnia's Muslims and their former Croat allies spells the end of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The country is all but dead, prone as a corpse in the desert, while Serbs and Croats circle overhead like vultures squabbling over the remains.

The recent clashes in the central Bosnian town of Prozor have emptied the charred and rubble-strewn streets of Muslims. Their leaders fear the battle for Prozor could mark the start of "ethnic cleansing" by the Croats, taking their cue from methods honed by the Serbs. British troops passing through Prozor from their

**Bosnia is effectively dead. The carve-up of the country by Serbs and Croats is a sorry tale of local duplicity and miscalculation by the Western powers**

forward base at Vitez reported Croat militiamen looting smashed stores amid the smoke from burning houses. Croat fighters used mortars, cannons and tank rounds against the out-gunned Muslims. Many Croat militiamen had the letter "U" emblazoned on their uniforms, standing for Ustashi, the Croatian fascists in the second world war whose lust for killing shocked even German SS officers.

Prozor is a key town on the

muddy dirt track that will be a relief route into the Bosnian heartland. The coming of winter there could claim tens of thousands of lives from cold and hunger, but for the soldiers of the HVO, the Croatian Defence Council fighting in Bosnia, none of this matters. Lines of Muslim refugee cars and trucks carrying aid were backed up at the Croat checkpoint complete with mounted machineguns outside Tomislavgrad, a key town in Herzegovina, the

self-proclaimed puppet state the Bosnian Croats have carved out for themselves. The HVO soldiers say the road is closed to Muslims, but Croatian cars travel freely.

Muslims say that they are shocked at the duplicity of the Croat leaders whose soldiers they still fight alongside in parts of Bosnia. Western observers are more sanguine: they say the HVO has had the arms to help break the siege of Sarajevo, for months HVO forces have artillery that could blast the Serb positions outside the city, but the weaker the Bosnian government, the more of Bosnia the Croats can carve off for themselves.

Bosnia is an internationally recognised sovereign state, but its government controls barely 10 per cent of its

territory. The Serbs have carved off 70 per cent, the Croats control 20 per cent. Croats rightly argue that, without the HVO, that 20 per cent would probably have been taken by the Serbs as well.

Croat leaders say the establishment of Herceg-Bosna is a temporary measure to last as long as the war, but the evidence suggests otherwise. The Bosnian dinar has been banned and replaced by Croatian currency. Herceg-Bosna just keeps growing and growing. Mate Boban, its leader, recently said that Travnik, a town where Muslims are the largest ethnic group, was part of his quasi-state. Now fighting between Serbs and Croats in the southern tip of Bosnia appears to have abated with

the announcement of a three-day ceasefire. The carve-up is almost complete. Without intervention from the West, Bosnia was destined to be one of the shortest-lived nation states this century.

America and Europe have for decades pumped money and weapons into bestial and totalitarian regimes across Asia and Latin America. But Bosnia, whose democratic government proposed plan after plan to share power among its nationalities, has been left to die, Muslims say.

They ask why Western governments even bother proclaiming their supposed outrage over atrocities when they do nothing to stop them. Now they expect nothing else. After all, Sarajevo residents say, there is no oil there.



## Germans foil Yugoslavia uranium plot

BY DESSA TREVISAN AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

GERMAN police have broken up a ring suspected of trying to smuggle large amounts of uranium and 30 tanks, believed to be from former Soviet republics, into the Yugoslav war zone.

Heinz Stocker, the Munich public prosecutor, said yesterday that seven Germans, eight Croats, including a Roman Catholic priest, two Austrians and a Swiss were under investigation. Seven of them had been arrested. He said documents and other material seized in raids in Germany, Switzerland and Austria on Wednesday indicated that uranium 235 and 30 tanks had been smuggled into the region for sale.

Investigators did not find any of the highly radioactive uranium 235, which is an ingredient in atomic bombs. Herr Stocker told reporters. He did not say if any tanks had been found. The presence of Croats in the ring indicated that the contraband seized was destined for the Balkans, he said.

The arrests came as Bosnian peace hopes dimmed yesterday, with Serb leaders rejecting the constitutional settlement proposed by Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, the co-chairmen of the international conference on former Yugoslavia. Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, said: "It was proposals such as these that led to the war in Bosnia and repeating them can only lead to a worsening of the war."

The Bosnian Serbs have reacted angrily to the proposals to "regionalise" the republic because, if the proposals were put into action, the Serbs' ultimate aim of uniting Serb-held territory in Bosnia with Serbia would be thwarted. Nikola Koljivic, the Serb leader, said in Geneva yesterday that the plan "was basically contrary to the fundamental wishes of the Serb people for unification."

Lord Owen and Mr Vance had hoped that the effect of publishing the plan would be similar to that when Mr Vance made clear his proposals for Croatia, and large-scale fighting stopped. Yesterday there was no sign of any abating of conflicts, with battles reported in the north of the republic, in Herzegovina and in the central town of Jajce.

The peace envoys are now visiting Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia in an attempt to calm tensions and to prevent the spread of the Yugoslav wars.

In Belgrade yesterday, Jeanne Peterson, a United Nations official, said the Vance plan for Serb-held territories in Croatia was experiencing serious problems. She said UN civilian police in the UN-controlled protected areas were reporting lawlessness, anarchy and murder. She said most of the victims of the attacks were Croats but added that Serbs were being mobilised to fight in Bosnia, many against their will.

General Satish Nambiar, the commander of UN forces in former Yugoslavia, also condemned local Serb leaders, accusing them of implementing only the parts of agreements which they had made and which suited them.



## Lithuanian leader says goodbye

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN  
IN VILNIUS

VYTAUTAS Landsbergis, in many Western eyes the embodiment of Lithuania's battle for independence from Moscow, yesterday bade farewell to the outgoing parliament. Recalling the great moments of its struggles, he said: "The image of this building is now established in the memory of many nations as a symbol of the fight for freedom."

That fight began on March 11, 1990, with the declaration of independence by the newly elected assembly, dominated by the Sajudis movement of Dr Landsbergis. Its majority replaced Algirdas Brazauskas, the Communist chairman of parliament, with Dr Landsbergis. On Sunday, Mr Brazauskas and his former Communist supporters crushed Sajudis in parliamentary elections.

Dr Landsbergis told deputies, most of whom lost their seats, that the future parliament "must take over those principles and truths for which we fought. We are not a cemetery of mammoths."

Many voters clearly had had enough of the intellectual Dr Landsbergis. One said he "wants us to think he alone achieved independence. In fact, the whole of Lithuania won independence."

## Bulgarian cabinet resigns

FROM TIM JUDAH  
IN SOFIA

BULGARIA'S political leaders were meeting in emergency session yesterday following the collapse of the government on Wednesday night.

The cabinet of Filip Dimitrov resigned after failing to win a vote of confidence brought on by allegations that it had been involved in an attempt to sell arms to neighbouring Macedonia, which is subject to a United Nations arms embargo. Mr Dimitrov lost Wednesday night's vote by 120 to 111 after a mainly ethnic Turkish party sided with its old political enemies, Bulgaria's former Communist party. Observers believe the leaders of the ruling Union of Democratic Forces will attempt to form a new government with Mr Dimitrov still at the helm. It is alleged that Konstantin Misher, Mr Dimitrov's top aide, tried to sell arms to the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Misher said: "I went to Macedonia to check if they wanted to buy in the future. We had lots of signals and lots of proposals but we decided to abide by the rules."

Diplomats are worried that if the Yugoslav conflict spreads to Macedonia, a general Balkan conflagration will begin. Albania, Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia all have historic interests in the currently unrecognised republic.

Shadow politics: a communist demonstrator wielding yesterday's copy of *Pravda* which shows President Yeltsin outside a meeting of the National Salvation Front. The group, which threatens to overthrow

the Russian leader and his government, was outlawed on Wednesday. Mr Yeltsin also ordered action to be taken against all other "anti-constitutional organisations" and said he personally would make sure that the

front, which includes some parliamentary deputies and serving army officers, was dissolved. However, the coalition of nationalist and communist groups met yesterday and vowed that it would fight on until President

Yeltsin was removed. Ilya Konstantinov, a front leader, said of the ban: "This is not the end of the world. This is not the end of the National Salvation Front. The fight has only just begun and we will triumph."

## Scientist held by KGB over article

**The alleged testing by Russia of highly toxic chemical weapons places a question mark over Moscow's declared commitment to banning their development and use**

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

A DISTINGUISHED Russian scientist is today to be charged with disclosing state secrets. He has been held incommunicado at the KGB's notorious Lefortovo prison for the past week.

Vil Mirzayanov wrote in *Moscow News* last month that the scientific institute where he used to work was developing and testing a new form of binary chemical weapon more toxic than anything possessed by America. He also stated that toxic substances were leaking from the institute into the Moscow atmosphere, and that enough poison was stored there to wipe out the

weapon had been tested in Uzbekistan in the spring, possibly without the approval of the republic's government. Such tests would not violate any international agreement, but if confirmed, they would appear to contradict Russia's declared commitment to ban the development and use of chemical weapons.

The Russian penal code outlaws the disclosure of state secrets but there is still no law defining what constitutes confidential information. A little-noticed decree from President Yeltsin in January stated that until such a law was passed, the notoriously arbitrary "normative acts" on secrecy in force under the Soviet regime could still be invoked. Natasha Geyvorkyan, a *Moscow News* journalist who has written extensively on the KGB, said that the case appeared to be a show of strength by the security establishment aimed at warning those who worked in sensitive government institutions. The prestige of the security ministry has risen steadily this year as it has clawed back functions of the old KGB.

The practice of vetting lawyers was reminiscent of Soviet treatment of dissidents, she said, adding that the authorities were acting more harshly now than they had over the disclosures made in 1990 by Oleg Kalugin, the retired KGB general, about the KGB.

Mr Kalugin was stripped of his rank and subjected to a series of legal actions, but he was not taken into custody. Rocket sale: Russia is to allow the army to sell booster rockets from scrapped strategic missiles to foreign space programmes, using the proceeds to build houses for soldiers returning from Eastern Europe and the Baltic states. The warheads are to be destroyed under an arms control treaty reached with America. (Reuters)



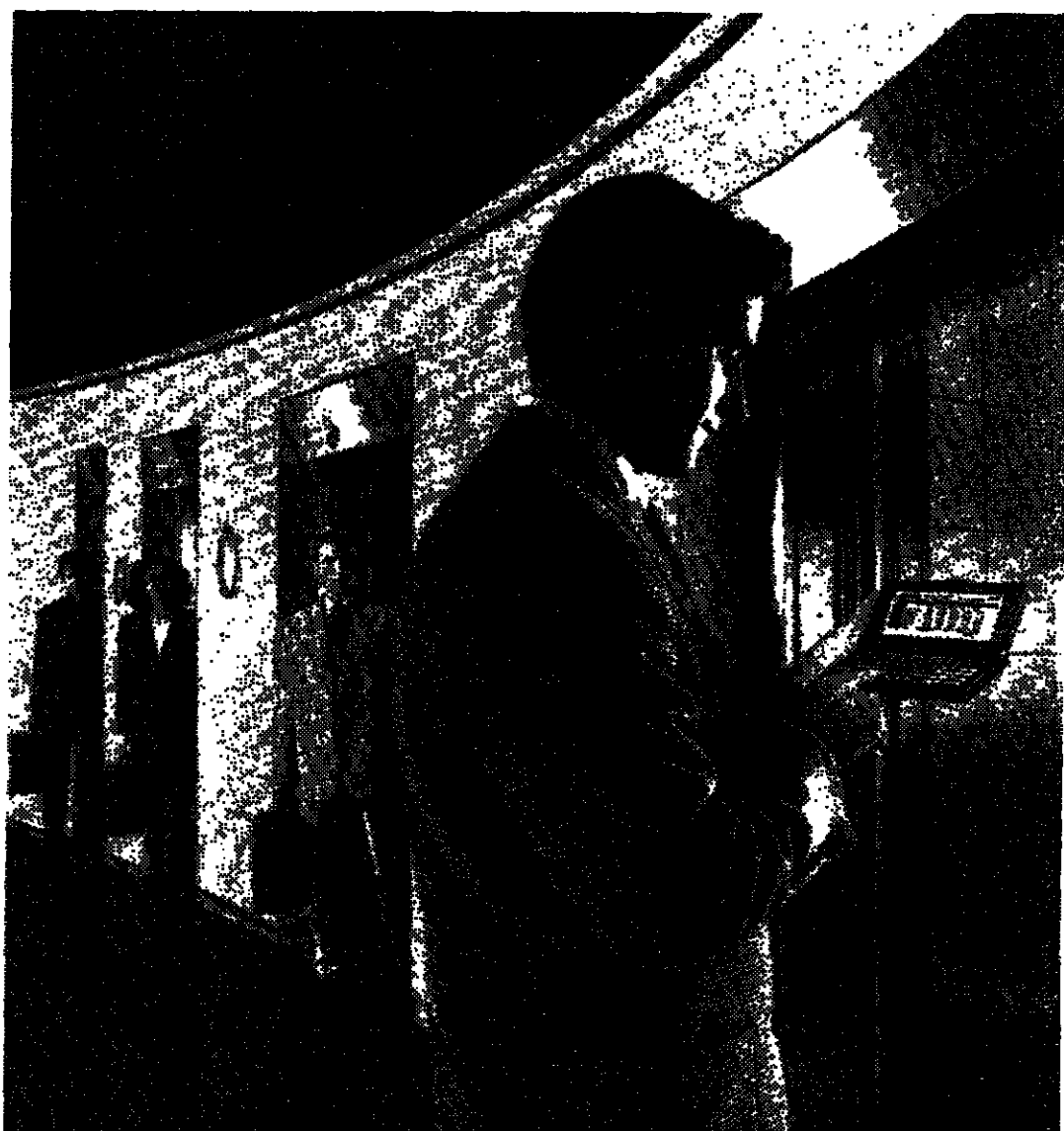
Kalugin: disclosures did not lead to arrest

city in the event of a fire or substantial leak.

The incident has worried Moscow's human rights activists, who say that they can recall nothing like it happening for several years. A lawyer named by Mr Mirzayanov's family was barred from Lefortovo on the ground that the prisoner's advocate must be approved by the security ministry, as the KGB apparatus is now called.

Mr Mirzayanov's co-author, Lev Fedorov, a scientist, was also briefly detained in connection with the article, which stated that the new

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# Bush claims momentum of victory as poll gap closes

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AS NEW polls yesterday showed only a slight closing of the gap in the presidential race, Mr Clinton bitterly attacked his opponents' "shameless" campaign and Mr Bush grabbed every opportunity to talk up his chances of pulling off an extraordinary upset victory next Tuesday.

A CNN-USA Today poll on Wednesday night showing Mr Bush just two points behind was widely seen as a rogue result reflecting a change in polling methodology. A batch of other surveys showed the president trailing by seven to 11 points with five full days of the campaign left.

Ross Perot appeared to have peaked. That was good news for Mr Clinton, who had been most damaged by the Texan's recent surge, but who still leads in all the states he has to win for an electoral college majority.

An NBC-Wall Street Journal survey put Mr Clinton on

44 per cent, Mr Bush 33 and Mr Perot 17. That lead was nine points down in a week and shrank to seven points when limited to likely voters. A Washington Post poll showed little change with Mr Clinton on 44, Mr Bush on 34 and Mr Perot on 19. The ABC News tracking poll had Mr Clinton on 42, Mr Bush on 35 and Mr Perot on 20, the same as the previous day.

Fresh Republican advertisements accusing him of draft-dodging and waffling inspired Mr Clinton's harshest attack to date on Mr Bush. Appearing on a television chat show, he said he had had a "bellyful" of Mr Bush lying in his promises to the nation, lying about his record in Arkansas, and perpetually attacking him on the issue of trust. He accused the president of peddling "outrageous distortions and outright falsehoods" about him.

Putting on his glasses, Mr Clinton read out newspaper editorials accusing Mr Bush of "trashing the truth". He even quoted from an interview with Mikhail Gorbachev in the latest New Yorker magazine in which the former Soviet leader said that "Bush warned me privately not to pay any attention to what he would say during the presidential campaign" about how he had won the Cold war.

Mr Bush, his frenetic schedule adjusted almost hourly to target key swing voters, was meanwhile doing his utmost to create the illusion of unstoppable momentum. "Things have changed dramatically. There is a very positive mood," he claimed on breakfast television in Michigan yesterday.

Mary Matalin, the president's deputy campaign manager, said Mr Bush was now ahead in 14 or 15 states with more than 140 of the 270 electoral college votes required for victory, and was gaining in another 15. Clinton strategists acknowledged a tightening of the race, but insisted that the Democrat still had double-digit leads in all the states required for an electoral college majority.

Mr Perot has also taken to the road, having spent \$37 million (£23 million) this month on television advertising. In Colorado, where he is vying with Mr Bush for second place, he insisted the only wasted vote this year would be for the president, "because he can't win... it's not in the cards".

From now until Tuesday the candidates will pull out every stop. Apart from fanatical cross-countrying the country, they have agreed to at least ten more television interviews before tomorrow night alone and will spend record amounts on last-minute advertising. Mr Bush has even coaxed Ronald Reagan out of retirement to stump for him in North Carolina and New Mexico.



Supporting act: Susan Sarandon, star of such films as *Thelma and Louise*, joining hundreds of women in a march down New York's Fifth Avenue in support of Bill Clinton

## Press picks on dirty holes in Mr Ozone's backyard

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

"WHO am I? Why am I here?" asked retired admiral James Stockdale during the televised vice-presidential debate this month.

Ross Perot's running-mate in the election confused about his whereabouts, as the rivals rush from state to state in a flurry of last-minute campaigning. The strain of perpetual motion seemed to be taking its toll on President Bush on Tuesday when he addressed 15,000 people at the Paducah Community College in Kentucky.

"Let me just say at the outset," the president said, "I'm very pleased to be here — and then back again — back for me in this great part of... of... of..."

"Kentucky!" bellowed the crowd. "Thank you," said the president. "I was going to say, of western Kentucky. It makes you agree with the guy who said, 'Heaven is a Kentucky kind of place.' The crowd appeared mollified, if rather baffled.

The president has recently taken to deriding Al Gore as "the ozone man" or "Mr Ozone" — or more informally, "Ozone" — a reference, presumably, to Mr Gore's environmentalism rather than the cloud of after-shave that seems to follow Mr Gore like a personal ozone hole.

"If I want foreign policy advice, I'd go to Millie [the White House dog] before I'd

go to Ozone and Governor Clinton," Mr Bush said on Wednesday, a witticism that seems rather hard on Millie who earns more as a best-selling author than either the president or Bill Clinton.

Mr Gore's reputation for ozone-friendliness is under attack, too. After what sounds like one of the least enjoyable journalistic investigations imaginable, *The Washington Times* has uncovered a large, malodorous dump on the Gore family farm in Tennessee. The paper claims it was "filled with pesticide containers, aerosol cans, old tyres, used filters filled with waste oil, and unrecycled cans and bottles".

The paper added: "The disposal of some of the material, including the pesticide containers, appears to violate state and federal



Gore: a malodorous dump on family farm

statutes." It may also explain the origin of Mr Gore's distinctive fragrance.

Dan Quayle, the vice-president, is also finding his backyard something of a worry. Mr Quayle's home state of Indiana may vote Democrat, according to the latest polls, an outcome that would prove an intense embarrassment to the vice-president since it has voted solidly Republican in every election since 1964.

A poll by the *Indianapolis Star* shows a virtual dead heat, with the Democrats fractionally ahead. Indiana has seen a trend towards the Democrats in the past four years, and the Republicans are expected to forfeit several state offices. Observers in Indiana, however, predict that there will be a last-minute revival of support for their native son. "He may be an idiot," said one Indiana resident, "but he's our idiot."

Such local partisanship is notably absent in parts of Arkansas. Mr Clinton's home state. While most Arkansas newspapers rallied to endorse the Democratic candidate, the state's largest newspaper, the inaptly named *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, has refused to endorse any candidate. It said of him: "It is not the compromises he has made that trouble so much as the unavoidable suspicion that he has no great principles to compromise."

## Clinton manoeuvres to sell hawkish image on defence

Martin Fletcher writes that style rather substance divides the main candidates on Pentagon policy

CANDIDATES in presidential elections usually strive to accentuate their differences, but on military matters Bill Clinton is doing quite the opposite.

Given his draft record and the Republicans' quadrennial hunger to dub the Democrats as "soft on defence", the Arkansas governor has produced a post-Cold war plan for the Pentagon that could have been modelled on the views of his opponent. The differences are more of degree than kind and, for the first time in decades, one of the Republicans' most potent issues has been blunted.

To extract any real mileage from defence this year President Bush has had to question Mr Clinton's fitness to be commander-in-chief. He mocks his opponent's experience as chief of the Arkansas National Guard. He ridicules Mr Clinton's equivocation over Operation Desert Storm. Who, he asks, would Americans want in the Oval Office at a time of international crisis?

Mr Clinton insists in his manifesto that "we will not shrink from using military force responsibly", as part of a wider coalition where possible, and he has advocated more robust military intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

His main defence advisers are the relatively hawkish Les Aspin and Sam Nunn, the chairman of the House and Senate armed services committees, and Dave McCurdy, the chairman of the House intelligence committee, any of whom could become his defence secretary. The end of the

based anti-missile system rather than the "Brilliant Pebbles" space-based weapons.

The Democratic candidate places less importance than Mr Bush on the forward basing of American forces, and more on the ability to deploy them rapidly to regional troublespots from American bases. He would invest more in the Pentagon's airlift and sealift capabilities and also supports the creation of a United Nations rapid deployment force. He would keep only ten aircraft carriers, two fewer than Mr Bush.

In three respects Mr Clinton does differ markedly from Mr Bush, although critics contend that these contrasts are politically inspired. He would have a huge defence conversion programme to redeploy the skills of those displaced by America's post-Cold war military contraction. He would keep some production lines open, notably for the Seawolf submarine, simply to preserve technological bases. He would also lift the ban on homosexuals in the forces.

□ New York: A Russian general with access to Soviet intelligence archives has formally concluded that Alger Hiss was not a spy for the former Soviet Union and has called the former State Department official a victim of the Cold war. General Dmitri Volkogonov's statement pleased Mr Hiss, 87, who said he was filled with "joy" at what he saw as a successful conclusion to 44 years of seeking exoneration. Accusations against Mr Hiss in 1948 led to his jailing. (AP)

## Southern California begins to let the train take the strain

FROM WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

SOUTHERN California, whose freeways during the rush hour make the M25 seem like a motorway paradise, entered a new era of rapid mass transport this week with the opening of its Metro-Link train system.

Resembling a cross between a jumbo jet and a double-decker bus, the trains are fitted with lipstick-pink imitation-leather seats. Billed as the answer to the gridlock on Los Angeles' freeways — otherwise known as the world's longest car park — the network is expected within a year to be carrying 30,000 commuters a day from middle-class suburbs into the central business district of the city. A typical fare from, say, Simi Valley, 45 miles north of the city, is about \$8 (£5).

In about eight weeks' time, Los Angeles' first underground commuter service, called the Metro Red-Line, will also be in operation. Its trains will travel 60ft below the city.

The brand new Metro-Link trains start running at 5am, travelling at up to 80mph, generally affording passengers — who are discouraged from eating or drinking — sweeping views of a sprawling urban wasteland. Smoking is banned and there is a \$250 fine for playing music. "Chet-blasters" are strictly forbidden," David Solow, Metro-

Rail's deputy executive director, said. "Listening to a personal Walkman, with headphones, is acceptable." The twin rail projects are at the centre of a \$15.5 billion investment over the next ten years intended to solve Southern California's chronic freeway overload: the average commuting trip for most drivers now is about three hours. Within five years 100,000 people are expected to be using the trains, growing to 250,000 by 2010.

The network's owner, Caltrans Development, claims the system will turn Los Angeles' Union station into the "Gateway of the 20th century".

Dream on, California. For all this grandiose ambition and Utopian confidence in solving the state's nightmare traffic problems, the final report of the Los Angeles 2000 Committee, a city-sponsored "future development" board, recently concluded: "Even with the completion of the Metro-Rail and light-rail projects, 96 per cent of us will still travel by car." At the same time, distances between home and work are increasing along with the number of drivers, which is multiplying faster than the population. The result is that the average morning rush hour speed on the entire freeway system by 2000 is forecast at 17mph.

Much of this has to do with the fact that there are simply too many cars in Los Angeles to fit on freeways that were never built to cater for such volumes of traffic. The other problem is that many southern Californians seem to take an almost masochistic pride in the amount of driving they do each day. With the property boom of the 1980s, many middle-class professionals were forced out from the city of Los Angeles to prosperous new suburbs, known as "bedroom communities", most notably in lily-white Orange county.

Moreover, the car in Los Angeles is viewed as an important symbol of self-advancement, mobility and autonomy, with the few hours or so of peace and private space people get in their cars being the only time many workers get to switch off and relax. This is one reason why the various attempts at car pools, involving special "fast lanes" on the freeway for cars with passengers, with fines of up to \$250 for those driving alone, as well as attempts to improve the local bus services, have been relative failures.

In the 1960s, Reyner Banham, in his famous book *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, described the freeways as: "The place where Angelenos spend the calmest and most rewarding hours of their daily lives."

## El Salvador ceasefire in jeopardy

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

THE government of El Salvador has refused to alter a timetable for the demobilisation of army units and guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), despite efforts by the United Nations to rescue a peace plan designed to end more than a decade of civil war.

Marrack Goulding, the British head of UN peacekeeping forces, flew to El Salvador yesterday in an attempt to avert breakdown of a ceasefire which has held since the peace plan came into effect in February.

A proposal by Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the UN secretary-general, to extend Saturday's deadline for the rebel army's full disarmament by 45 days was rejected by President Alfredo Cristiani. He blamed the FMLN for failing to meet the original peace plan deadlines.

The FMLN has accepted the UN's new timetable, and said it would demobilise about 1,600 of its troops today and tomorrow, leaving 3,200 of its once 8,000-man army in uniform. Mr Cristiani said he would not order further demobilisation of government troops until all FMLN rebels had been disarmed and their weapons destroyed.

## Penguins face lingering death by oil

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN PATAGONIA

SMALL Magellanic penguins emerged one by one from rough waters and came ashore on the rocky beachside of Penguin Island to congregate for the spring nesting season. They lined up like schoolchildren and made their way to the nests below the dry shrubs that cover the island, in the bay of Sea Lions along the arid coast of Patagonia.

As the wind blew fiercely across the island, the penguins stared fearfully at the camera, and paraded around a red lighthouse which was built by Spanish and British sea merchants in the seventeenth century to show up the island where the merchants picked up slaughtered penguins for their oil and skins.

The penguins are oblivious to the dangers that now threaten them. Environmentalists say that the penguins, and other wildlife on the Patagonian coast, are increasingly threatened by recurrent oil spills from nearby petroleum ports and by waste that fishing trawlers discard into the Atlantic Ocean.

Thousands of penguins and other species of bird migrate every year to the coastline and islands in southern Argentina — an area rich in marine life. But numbers are sharply decreasing. "Fewer penguins arrive to nest every year and thousands are dying from oil spills and water pollution," said Miguel Pelierano, of an Argentine

He was pretty well oiled when he came in



environmental organisation.

"Centuries ago they were slaughtered for their oil. Now they are facing slow, cruel deaths. Oil stops their coats from being impermeable so they die of exposure," he said.

Two weeks ago a large oil spillage was reported just off the northern Patagonian port city of Bahia Blanca. More than 700,000 litres of crude oil leaked into the ocean after a pipe feeding the ports with petroleum from a tanker ruptured. "Beaches nearby were blackened and small islands which are nature reserves were affected," said Dr Adam Puchi, an environmentalist at Bahia Blanca University.

More than 10,000 penguins died last year because of oil spills along the Patagonian coast that covers three Argentine provinces: Santa Cruz, Chubut and Rio Negro. This year environmentalists expect thousands of deaths during the breeding and nesting season ending in December. Although large areas of

Patagonia were declared protected by law in the late 1970s, laws have been ignored. A few environmentally conscious Argentine congressmen in Buenos Aires attempted unsuccessfully this month to push through tougher environmental rules.

Environmentalists are campaigning for tighter controls on petroleum companies and fishing trawlers which can buy yearly licences for just \$30,000. Most fishing trawlers, mainly Spanish and Japanese, exploit this part of the South Atlantic for large prawns and squid.

The Pan American Highway that runs the 1,250 miles between the capital Buenos Aires and Patagonia leads from the bay of Sea Lions to a coastal town responsible for pollution. In the small town of Puerto Deseado, which lies by a river mouth that is rich in wildlife and fauna and is supposed to be a protected zone, more than a dozen fishing companies run pro-

cessing plants that openly discard wastes into the bay of San Jorge.

"This town is also home to sea lions who breed on nearby beaches, and to penguins and cormorant birds. But attempts at fighting legal battles against the fishing companies to stop them from making a mess of the place have failed repeatedly," said a local environmentalist.

A dusty stretch of the highway leads to Patagonia's largest petroleum city, Comodoro Rivadavia, where the overwhelming majority of the working population is employed on oilfields. "Here people don't want to talk about environment. Jobs are more important," said one shopkeeper. But environmentalists say that companies should be monitored in order to prevent waste-dumping, not to make the oilfields stop working completely.

Environmentalists claim that the petroleum tanks lining the city's coastline discard toxic waste directly into the Atlantic Ocean. Its beaches are defaced by oil and rusty metal parts.

Sea lions that once inhabited the beachside, which is now filled with video arcades and bars, swim around the edge of the harbour as though lost in the sun. But as the pollution of the area worsens their numbers are dwindling, just like those of the Magellanic penguins on the penguin island 250 miles south of Comodoro Rivadavia.



## Patten challenges Peking to table democracy option

CHRIS Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, said last night he was ready to go on talking with Chinese officials on expanding democracy in the colony and noted that what the people of the territory wanted was rational discussion, not threats, rhetoric and a barrage of adjectives.

The governor, whose proposals for increasing democratic rights for Hong Kong people have been attacked by the Chinese on the grounds that they could lead to "turmoil" and "great chaos", and who was snubbed last week in Peking, added: "I think the sensible thing to do is to go on talking and it would also help if the Chinese side would say what they want."

Mr Patten said Hong Kong officials would approach Guo Fengmin, Chinese leader of the joint liaison group, which brings together British and Chinese negotiators, when he returns to Hong Kong, with a view to following up the unsuccessful Peking talks. Diplomats here noted that the group's talks would be at a lower level than those conducted by Mr Patten.

The governor was asked what he would do if proposals for expanding democracy in elections scheduled for 1995, which he put to Hong Kong's Legislative Council in his address on October 7, were turned down by the legislators, possibly as a result of pressure from Peking.

"If the legislature representing the people of Hong Kong gives those proposals the thumbs down," Mr Patten said, "then they will have to explain that to the people of

**In an interview with James Pringle of The Times, Chris Patten spells out how he will try to keep China talking over widening democracy in Hong Kong**

Hong Kong and live with that, not just in 1993 but for some time afterwards. Of course it is right to debate the proposals conscientiously and thoroughly, and I hope those who criticised will actually say what they would do instead."

However, he felt his proposals for expanding the franchise in the 1995 elections had "very considerable support" among those directly elected — 18 in all — and also "a lot of support" among the other members of the Legislative Council. "I don't think members of the Legislative Council will be intimidated into betraying their judgment or conscience by an avalanche of editorials in Wen Wei Po [a



Patten: Chinese should say what they want

## Colony liberals accuse Chinese of bullying

By JAMES PRINGLE

OFFICIALS in Hong Kong are concerned about allegations that Chinese communist apparatchiks have bullied and intimidated prominent citizens in the colony who have indicated support for democratic reforms proposed by Chris Patten, the governor.

Informed sources said some members of the Legislative Council (the territory's parliament) and other prominent citizens have had unsolicited meetings with members of the pro-Peking "united front" groups who have told them to "get on side". One source said: "These people are approached by others who are often colleagues who tell them their activities are being watched. Those approached may be businessmen, teachers or journalists; people with some influence in the community."

"First the apparatchiks, who may be either from mainland China or from Hong Kong, appeal to the patriotism of the person approached, saying the proposals put forward by Mr Patten are not in China's interests. If this does not work, they are warned that their

business interests in China may be affected."

Such campaigns are believed to be directed from the offices of the New China news agency, the unofficial Chinese "embassy" in Hong Kong. There is concern that if the threats continue they could muffle public support for Mr Patten's policies.

James To Kun-sun, a Legislative Council member representing the pro-democracy United Democratic Party, said last night: "I have not heard of any threats to our members but these people know they can't change our minds. If there were such threats, I hope our members tell us about it." □ Visit in doubt Peking has hinted that the proposed visit to Britain next month of Zhu Rongji, the vice-premier, may become the latest casualty of the conflict over the future of Hong Kong. A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said: "We will in due course release news concerning vice-premier Zhu Rongji's visit to Britain." Since no "news" was expected, the remark suggests that China is reconsidering. (AP)

## Squabbling Afghan factions fail to pick new president

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THE divided Afghan Mujahidin government has failed to agree on a successor to President Rabbani, who was due to step down two days after four months in power. The continuing chaos is further evidence that the country is splitting along ethnic lines.

Iran radio reported that Mr Rabbani would stay on for two more months while the search for a replacement continued. The presidency is meant to be rotated every four months, pending the election of a permanent president. The procedure is keeping Afghanistan leaderless and ungoverned, with no bureaucracy, no money and little food as the severe winter approaches.

Mujahidin groups plan to meet soon in a "grand assembly" to try to agree on the nature and timing of elections. This may be a fanciful idea, however, in a country being run by the gun. The disarray is being watched with alarm by Pakistan, which fears for its own stability alongside a nation that seems to be in the process of irrevocable partition. Central Asia, India and even China also have reason to be worried.

The war between rival Mujahidin factions is not over yet, despite the lull. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the hardline Pashtun leader, is keeping his forces poised for another strike on Kabul from



positions south of the capital. He last pulverised the city in August. His probable objective is the creation of a Pashtun state in the south and east of the country along the Pakistan border, with Kabul as its capital.

The Pakistan government fears the man whom it once backed. The de facto establishment of a Pashtun state would awaken the idea of a Pashtun homeland, Pashtunistan, straddling the Pakistan-Afghan border. There are more than ten million Pashtuns in Pakistan, mostly in the North West Frontier Province.

Since April, Afghanistan has split broadly into three regions. The north and north-east are run by Uzbeks and Tajiks in a tenuous anti-Pashtun alliance. They also control Kabul. The Shia Muslim Hazaras of the central highlands control much of the western areas up to the Iran-

ian border, while the Pashtuns have the south and east. Iran and Saudi Arabia are intensifying their competition for influence in Afghanistan, fueling the religious divide. The Saudis are probably aiding Mr Hekmatyar directly, although they deny it. Iran is principally supporting Hezb-i-Wahadat, a Shia group.

There are clear indications that various ethnic leaders are seeking permanently to divide Afghanistan to establish their own fiefdoms. General Rashid Dostum, the Uzbek leader, has visited the Central Asian, former Soviet, republic of Uzbekistan, doubtless to urge support for an Uzbek state in northern Afghanistan, with the city of Mazar-i-Sharif as its capital. The Uzbeks are determined never again to come under Pashtun domination.

Mr Hekmatyar has been sounding out support for an independent Pashtun state. He has been trying to persuade Gulf states that a Sunni Muslim, pro-Arab enclave would be a buffer against Iran and the Shias.

China is worried that the break-up of Afghanistan will unsettle its western province of Xinjiang, bordering Tajikistan, which has a substantial Muslim population. India already has evidence that Afghan Mujahidin are fighting in the mainly Islamic Kashmir Valley.

## Head of UN in Somalia resigns

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

MUHAMMAD Sahnoun, head of the United Nations mission in Somalia, yesterday resigned his post in Mogadishu, the capital, after he was reprimanded for his open criticism of the world body's policy and bureaucracy in the war-ravaged country which, he said, hampered his peace efforts.

Mr Sahnoun said he had no choice other than to leave his post after receiving no response to his resignation letter sent to the UN headquarters in New York last Monday. His resignation was greeted with despair by private aid agencies that had been deeply impressed by his commitment to trying to bring the warring factions in Somalia to the negotiating table. The private agencies have also agreed with his public criticism of the slow response of the UN and its agencies to widespread starvation in the country that has already contributed to at least 300,000 deaths.

Brigadier General Imtiaz Shaheen, head of the 500-man Pakistani contingent sent to Mogadishu to secure the port and airport a month ago, but not yet deployed, said after Mr Sahnoun confirmed his resignation: "We are back to square one." General Shaheen now becomes head of the UN operation in Somalia.

Aid workers cried when Mr Sahnoun left Mogadishu airport. Rick Grant, head of the international Care aid agency, said: "This means a further delay in getting a lot of food to a lot of people who are dying in the dust. It will be very difficult for anyone to match Sahnoun's deep understanding of the situation here, and few believe anyone else could do the job as well."



Bureaucratic headache: Mr Sahnoun shows his frustration with the UN

Last month the UN promised to import 100,000 tonnes of food in the last three months of the year to end the famine still killing 1,000 people a day, but relief operations in Baidoa, Baidara, and Hoddur, all in the central southern region where the famine is worst, have been severely hit by a recent increase in fighting and minor attacks by gunmen on food-relief aircraft.

The UN was widely criticised for leaving Somalia too soon after the civil war started there in December 1989 and for taking more

than a year to re-establish a significant presence.

Mr Sahnoun had supported these criticisms, adding his own after arriving last April. With the exception of the UN Children's Fund, he said, heads of UN agencies were "lousy" and had done "absolutely nothing".

Mr Sahnoun has been credited by the International Committee of the Red Cross and Save the Children Fund, among others, with galvanising the UN into action and for again drawing the attention of the world to the continuing plight of the Somali people.

## Extra men to be sent to Natal

Johannesburg: A big increase in the number of security forces deployed in Natal was announced by President de Klerk last night after he chaired a meeting of the cabinet and then the state security council (Michael Hamlyn writes).

The province is on the verge of civil war, particularly in the black homeland of KwaZulu, as supporters of the African National Congress and the rival Inkatha Freedom Party carry out almost daily attacks.

Mr de Klerk said the South Africa Defence Force would double its soldiers in Natal within a week, the number of police would be increased, and extra riot police would be deployed.

## Dam accord

London: Czechoslovakia and Hungary have agreed to halt work on the disputed Gabčíkovo Nagymaros dam, to send a fact-finding team to the site and report tomorrow to a Brussels committee trying to broker a compromise.

## Lockerbie blow

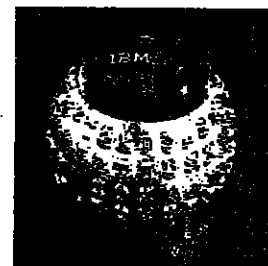
Tripoli: Libya turned back a French judge who arrived to investigate the 1989 bombing of a French DC10 airliner, in a move which diplomats said put paid to the latest attempt to resolve the Lockerbie affair. (Reuters)

## Polio kills boy

Amsterdam: A four-week-old boy has died in a Dutch polio epidemic, the first such fatality since 1978. The resurgence of the virus is attributed to 4,000 Calvinists who refuse vaccinations on religious grounds.

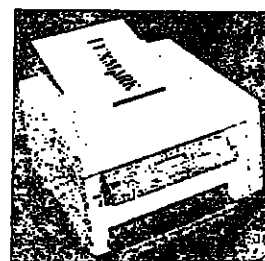
## Down to Earth

Seoul: South Korean church leaders apologised yesterday for failing to arrange passage to heaven for thousands of worshippers who had expected to leave Earth in a comet-like flash on Wednesday. (AP)



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# Fighting for the honour of Auntie

Has the BBC really lost its nerve, and is *Eldorado* mired in cynicism?

Alice Thomson meets Richard Eyre

Crie de coeur from the soul of the chattering classes, or unedifying whinger Richard Eyre, the normally reticent director of the Royal National Theatre, has been accused of attacking the BBC in a speech he gave at a conference on art and broadcasting this week. He was reported as having launched a virulent attack on the management, accusing it of introducing vicious working methods and of suffering from a loss of nerve and vision. Worse, he accused *Eldorado*, BBC's £10 million new soap opera of being "mired in cynicism".

An organisation that has already taken its fair share of batterings in the run up to the government's imminent green paper on the BBC's future, hardly needed another kick in the face. The BBC's management was said to be appalled.

Mr Eyre is equally distressed. He says that far from sending hate mail to the BBC, his speech was "a love letter". "I love the BBC... what it was and what it is. I have worked there as a director for 15 years — all I wanted to say is let's not lose it," he says.

Mr Eyre is sitting in his office on the top floor of the National Theatre. He has been described as an English

rose, a sort of male Princess of Wales. But apart from the long eyelashes he looks more like the reserved arts master at a girls school who everyone has a crush on. His hair is middle aged and wispy and he is wearing an olive green suit, black polo shirt and rebellious pink socks. He is also wearing the rather bemused expression of one who cannot understand what he has done wrong.

"My opinion of the BBC is that it is a wonderful institution but it is in danger of going astray. Marmaduke Hussey may say that I am misinformed but I have just finished doing a film there and I know the staff are not feeling loved."

So does Mr Eyre, in a mild way, see himself as being a champion of all the technicians, producers, researchers and cameramen at the BBC who he feels haven't found a voice? "What I want to do is give them a boost," he says. "They haven't been given a chance to prove their worth."

He is particularly worried about the recent embracing of producer choice — a new

working practice which allows producers to choose teams from outside the BBC. "The initiative is meant to demonstrate how market-orientated the BBC is becoming. But because they are contracting out so many programmes, there is a loss of morale among the staff. Combine that with an obligation to buy in 25 per cent of the programmes and no wonder the staff feel they are second class citizens."

If Mr Eyre had a blank piece of paper on which to sketch out the green paper what would be his manifesto?

"There are apparently three strategies on offer for the BBC. The first is known as the 'Himalayan' strategy and it describes the intention to occupy the cultural high ground. The second, which may well be called 'the sunlit uplands', is dedicated to a middle-brow pastoralism — classic serials and nature programmes and the third is 'the sewage farm', which would, I suppose, be dedicated to game shows, sport and sitcoms."

Mr Eyre believes there is

only one solution if the BBC continues to take the licence fee. "There must be a dual responsibility to address a mass audience and to address a minority audience." Pretty much what they are doing now? "Yes, with a few exceptions," he says.

The main exception turns out to be *Eldorado*. Mr Eyre has nothing against popular entertainment — he is obviously an *EastEnders* aficionado — but it has to be produced in the right spirit. "*EastEnders* was made in an innocent, honest, daring, exciting and pioneering way," he says. "*Eldorado* was made by market researchers — it was a synthetic, cynical manufacturing of popular entertainment for the masses and it jumped out like a bad smell."

In his speech he called ratings "the pissing competition". "All these producers saying 'look I can piss further

**'I love the BBC... what it was and what it is. All that I wanted to say is let's not lose it'**

than you can." He strongly believes that ratings should not be the only index of success. "I find it contemptible that a couple of million for bowling or a good documentary is considered a derisory amount. A couple of million is a large audience compared with most newspapers and theatres." (Mr Eyre is one of the best "pissers" of all; his BBC film *Tumbledown* had an audience of 18 million.)

He also wishes that cable and satellite companies would pack up and go home. "I know that marks me out as undemocratic. But by diluting the market we are diluting the quality," he says.

This is the crux of the matter. Mr Eyre sees British television as a cornerstone of the country's cultural life. "The BBC defined the way that I looked at the world. I never went to the theatre until I was 18. We lived in the country and watched television."

So does he think that the BBC's role should be to educate the masses? "This is really difficult territory," he says. "The BBC can't preach to people but it can enthuse them. If you are enthusiastic and down-to-earth about a subject, however dry, you can grab an audience."

All this might be a little hard for BBC executives to swallow

but they cannot afford to ignore Mr Eyre. The National Theatre is to the arts what the BBC is to broadcasting. And at the moment the National Theatre seems to be providing a more cohesive focal point.

After a recent whistle-stop tour of London's theatres the Butcher of Broadway, critic Frank Rich, gave his verdict — the West End was trapped in a time warp but the big subsidised companies were enjoying a golden age. Mr Eyre, the critic said, could be the most successful and versatile producer of the English-speaking theatre.

Mr Eyre almost blushes. "I'm scared we seem to be on such a high, next year could

be a disaster," he says. But why is he so in vogue now? He laughs coyly. "In my four years here I have managed to exercise judgment in the right directions. I am employed to exercise my taste and I have a crude criterion. All the plays we do are plays I want to direct."

His other great asset is his enthusiasm, which is what he says he was trying to impart to the BBC. "Anyone who is an artist of sorts needs to be buoyed up otherwise they are like a flat balloon. That is especially true of someone like the BBC or the National where people are on relatively low pay."

His strategy has produced not only contented staff but, as theatres go, a well-stocked

coffer. "It's a £30 million business and we have to come up with two-thirds of the revenue from the box office. The subsidy helps bring down the prices so students can see plays for £5.50. We're breaking even."

It wasn't all easy going. "The first 18 months I wanted to cry all the way to work. It was a huge burden taking over this edifice and all its ghosts [Lord Olivier and Sir Peter Hall were his two predecessors]."

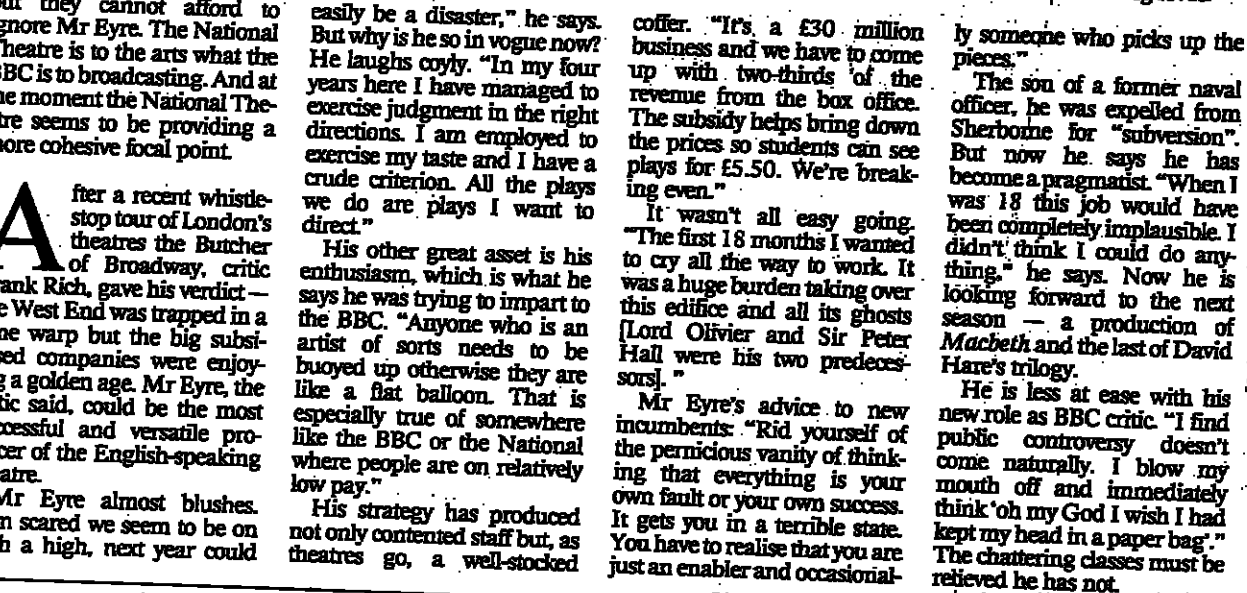
Mr Eyre's advice to new incumbents: "Kid yourself of the pernicious vanity of thinking that everything is your own fault or your own success. It gets you in a terrible state. You have to realise that you are just an enabler and occasional-

ly someone who picks up the pieces."

The son of a former naval officer, he was expelled from Sherborne for "subversion". But now he says he has become a pragmatist. "When I was 18 this job would have been completely implausible. I didn't think I could do anything," he says. Now he is looking forward to the next season — a production of *Macbeth* and the last of David Hare's trilogy.

He is less at ease with his new role as BBC critic. "I find public controversy doesn't come naturally. I blow my mouth off and immediately think 'oh my God I wish I had kept my head in a paper bag'. The chattering classes must be relieved he has not."

Warning: Richard Eyre says "the BBC is a wonderful institution in danger of going astray. The staff are not feeling loved"



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Deposit Account	1.00	0.75
Flexible Savings Account (including full bonus)	2.33	1.75
TIMESAVER Account £1 - £249	1.00	0.75
£250 - £999	2.33	1.75
£1,000 plus	3.67	2.75
MAXIMISER Bonus Account £1,000 - £9,999	6.15	4.61
£10,000 plus	7.15	5.36
MAXIMISER Option 1 (Income)	5.75	4.31
MAXIMISER Option 3 (Income)	5.60	4.20
MAXIMISER Option 6 (Income)	6.45	4.84
MAXIMISER Option 6 (Income)	6.25	4.69
MAXIMISER Option 6 (Income)	7.50	5.63
MAXIMISER Option 6 (Income)	7.25	5.44
MAXIMISER Vintage Bond £5,000 - £24,999	9.10	6.83
£25,000 plus	9.80	7.35
£5,000 - £24,999 (Income)	8.85	6.64
£25,000 plus (Income)	9.40	7.05
MAXIMISER Tax Plan Account	6.45	4.84
MAXIMISER Classic TESSA	Gross % P.A. 6.70 + Bonus Gross % P.A. 1.00 = Tax Exempt % P.A. 7.70	
MAXIMISER High-Return TESSA	Gross % P.A. 7.50 + Bonus Gross % P.A. 1.00 = Tax Exempt % P.A. 8.50	
MAXIMISER High-Return Feeder Account	Gross % P.A. 8.50	Net Equiv. % P.A. 6.38
MAXIMISER High Yield S.A.Y.E. Feeder S.A.Y.E. (5 year)	7.00	5.25
S.A.Y.E. (7 year)	8.30	
	8.62	

## ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS

Scheme	Gross % P.A.	Net Equiv. % P.A.
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£5,000 plus	6.25	4.69
MAXIMISER Growth Account £5,000 plus	6.45	4.84
MAXIMISER Top Rate Account (Income)	7.00	5.25
MAXIMISER Elite I, II, III, IV, V (Matured)	6.80	5.10
Elite VI, 7 (Matured) £1,000 - £9,999	6.45	4.84
£10,000 plus	5.15	3.86
Elite 7 & 8 (Growth) £5,000 - £24,999	6.15	4.61
£25,000 plus	8.10	6.08
Elite 8 (Income) £5,000 - £24,999	8.45	6.34
£25,000 plus	7.90	5.93
MAXIMISER Annual Account £10,000 - £29,999	8.25	6.19
£30,000 plus	8.30	6.23
£10,000 - £29,999 (Income)	8.70	6.53
£30,000 plus (Income)	8.00	6.00
Premium Access (Issue 1) (Issue 2)	8.25	6.26
Real Gold Account (including full bonus)	3.79	2.84
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Acorn/Classmate	5.60	4.20
High Flyer Issue 1 £1,000 - £9,999	5.75	4.31
£10,000 plus	1.00	0.75
LSBS Matured Bonds: Optimum 2 All Other Bonds	5.15	3.86
Super 90 £1,000 - £24,999	6.45	4.84
£25,000 plus (Income)	5.15	3.86
Spa TESSA 1	6.45	4.84
Spa TESSA 2	7.50	5.63
	6.55	4.91
MAXIMISER Optimum TESSA	Gross % P.A. 8.20 + Bonus Gross % P.A. 1.00 = Tax Exempt % P.A. 7.70	

For details of other accounts please contact your local branch. Interest rates are variable. All schemes are subject to the current rate of interest set by the Bank of England. The actual net amount payable to an investor who has not registered for gross income will depend upon the basic rate of income tax in force at the time interest is credited or paid out.

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## As the stars of a thousand teenage fantasies go on tour, will the real stand-up please stand up?

### Emperors of funny stuff

Rob Newman and David Baddiel are rock stars. It may say "Stand-up comedian/author" in their passports, but they are rock stars, with massive-selling videos, a bestselling book, television and radio series, and a sold-out tour that guarantees a couple of hundred screaming girls in every town: maybe a couple of thousand if there's nothing on the telly that night, or it's Wigan.

Yeah, there was a big groupie sex thing at the beginning of the tour," Baddiel says. "I'd just broken up with my girlfriend, but after a while I discovered that I wasn't that interested in casual sex. That was a bit of a bummer."

Baddiel is the world-weary half of the Baddiel and Newman partnership. He was first inspired to become a stand-up when he put on his school's sixth form revue, which was so brilliantly crass the teachers banned it, so earning him sackloads of instant cash.

Newman is actually charming, but when he walks from his management company to the café where we conduct the interview, he hunches his shoulders, over his ears like he's expecting someone to run up and hit him.

"In the last three days it's been as bad as it's ever been," Baddiel says, fiddling with a glass of mineral water. They insist on being interviewed separately, but this is a sentiment Newman echoed earlier. "It's probably irrational. I mean, if you stand back and look at our careers, it's brilliant. Being called the Python

for the 1990s, that's great." And they are, easily, the Pythons for the 1990s. Quite simply, Baddiel and Newman are King High Lordy Emperors of the funny stuff.

Pulling on our spangly cosmic Moonboots and wading back through the mists of time, we reach 1989: Aprilish. At midnight on Saturdays, the nation's disaffected youth would curl up under the duvet with Radio 1, and listen to messages of inspiration and gags about Top Cat and Yo-Yo Biscuits and the pop group Boney M. This was *The Mary Whitehouse Experience*. Dave and Rob plus The Other Two, who are now pursuing separate careers. *TMWE* went into four series on Radio 1, with queues forming outside the recording studios, and then it transferred to BBC 2, where the hysteria was born.

Sobbing fans and the pressures of work have taken their toll, but Newman is looking forward to their next tour, which starts today. "Gigging is like a regulatory mechanism for heaving yourself out of a morass of insecurity, and, uh, all that stuff. I'm floating just after I come off stage," he says. There are reasons why anyone wants to stand on a stage and make an audience like them. Pop stars, actors and comedians must all have, uh, slightly warped psyches. Probably.

Newman had French and Celtic parents, was adopted at the age of six weeks, and doesn't want to talk about what Baddiel calls "Rob's horrific childhood". Studying



Rock stars of comedy: Baddiel and Newman of *The Mary Whitehouse Experience*

English at Selwyn College, Cambridge. Newman suddenly became vehemently puritan: he wouldn't take drugs, never went out. Instead he'd retire to his rooms to sleep and be woken by drunken students returning at 3am. "I just didn't really like students," he says.

So how does he feel now? *TMWE* was fantastically successful, with five million viewers a week, all devoted, all word perfect when it was repeated five months after first transmission. The last Baddiel and Newman tour was one of the highest-grossing comedy tours of all time, they sold out the Hammer-smith Odeon in London three nights running, and the *Mary Whitehouse Experience* Encyclopaedia went to number two in the bestseller charts. Plus a million girls would willingly sell their parents if they could struggle Newman or Baddiel up in a pink duvet and feed them jellybeans all night. "I've always been obsessed with whether I'm a failure or

not," Newman says, toying with the twizzler stick in his orange juice. "But recently it's been getting worse. When I'm on stage, I'll be sending myself messages of hate, like 'Drink a glass of water? You're drinking a glass of water? You're losing the audience, they hate you, they hate you, they're booooooring'."

When I ask him if he hates himself, he doesn't even pause. "Oh yeah. A lot of the time I think 'Oh God, I haven't worked, it didn't sell, I haven't made any friends who care about me, no one wants me around'. Apart from that, from hundreds of thousands of teenagers who can relate to the 'controlled numb despair' to which they both refer. In this way, Baddiel is the Michael Stipe (from REM) of the comedy world, and Newman is 'the Morrissey of stand-up'."

"I interviewed Spike Milligan for this radio programme last week," Newman says. "He didn't really know who I was. Then, towards the end, he twigged I'd done some TV, and he said 'Oh, I'd've

brought out my best crockery if I'd known'. So I said 'I'd send him the video of our stuff. And Spike said 'Ah, and I'll send you a video of the crockery'. And I realised afterwards how much he had influenced me, subconsciously."

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# Glory of the golden oldies

Is there room for a channel offering nothing but repeats? Melinda Wittstock reports

Nostalgia just isn't what it used to be. Long gone are the days when disgruntled television viewers grumbled about the not-so-occasional repeat on BBC1 or ITV. Now the nation can grumble 20 hours a day if it wants about a new satellite entertainment channel devoted entirely to what British broadcasters euphemistically label "classics", "golden oldies", "tributes" and "cult viewing".

Vintage episodes of Britain's best comedies, soaps and dramas will be back on the small screen from this Sunday with the launch of UK Gold, an unprecedented joint venture between the BBC and Thames Television. Available free until at least the end of 1993 to Astra satellite dish owners and cable subscribers, the new channel will use more than 130,000 hours of fine old fare which has been quietly ageing in the archives.

But aside from soap-addicts desperate to relive years of early *Neighbours*, *EastEnders* and *Dallas*, will the public clamour for reruns on satellite?

"When we said the word 'repeats' in our audience research, most people reacted negatively," Sue Farr, Thames' head of marketing, says. "But the minute we started talking about the programmes — classics like *George and Mildred*, *The Goodies* or *The Rise and Fall of Reginald Perrin* — people got remarkably enthusiastic about it."

Broadcasters endure more complaints about repeats than they do about sex, violence or swearing, but audience ratings bear out the case for UK Gold. All four main channels have realised the value of repeats, with BBC comedies such as *Porridge*, *Dad's Army*, *Citizen Smith*, *Stepie and Son* and *As Time Goes By* regularly attracting audiences above ten million. Comedy usually outlasts drama: *Taggart* is the only gritty serious series to hit the ratings stratosphere the second time around, with 9.1 million.

But nearly all of television's pre-1970s output has been confined to minority channel revivals. Channel 4's *TV Heaven*, where the archives were sent last spring for 13 weeks if they had been good, attracted an average audience of 2.1 million, while BBC2's *repeats*, a weekend of the nadir of British television history with *TV Hell*, also attracted about two million viewers.

Derek Lewis, the former Granada Group chief executive who is masterminding UK Gold's launch, points to the channel's market research which suggests that 95 per cent of the nation's 11 million satellite and cable viewers say they want to watch classic British programmes. According to UK Gold, 80 per cent of all television viewers said they would consider buying a satellite dish to receive UK Gold.

This apparent enthusiasm for repeats comes at a convenient time for broadcasters. Airtime has become available, with the advent of new cable and satellite channels, at a faster rate than producers appear to be able to produce new programmes. Financial stringencies imposed by the ITV auction, and real shrinkage in licence fee revenue has conspired, meanwhile, to reduce production budgets. UK Gold's timing therefore seems propitious.

Satellite, dominated in the UK by BSkyB's six channels, has yet to shed the stigma of broadcasting wall-to-wall downmarket Aussie and American programmes.

UK Gold will show just three foreign-made series, *Dallas*, *Neighbours*, now deemed British institutions, and *Sons & Daughters*. Tony Iffland, the Australian-born head of UK programming at BBC Enterprises, who helped David Elstein, Thames' director of programmes, draft UK Gold's schedule, says the fact that UK Gold is largely made-in-Britain is crucial to the channel's success.

"These programmes are the best in the world," Mr Iffland says. "The comedies have stood the test of time, a lot of people have memorised whole scenes."

UK Gold claims as a selling point its simplified schedule. Mr Elstein says: "Nobody can remember a BBC1 schedule because it changes all the time. People like to know that at 6pm they get dramas like *The Duchess of Duke Street*, at 7pm and 7.30pm comedies like *Allo Allo* and *Terry & June*, at 8pm every night *EastEnders*, at 9pm drama like *Casualty*, *Tenko* and *Rumpole of the Bailey*, at 10pm every night *The Bill*, and at 10.30pm alternative comedy like *Alexei Sayle's Stuff*, *The Young Ones* and *Carrot Confidential*. This way viewers tune in as a habit as well as by choice."

UK Gold, which this Sunday makes its debut at 7pm with John Sullivan's sitcom *Just Good Friends*, will delight soap buffs on weekdays. At 7.30am on Monday, and again at 12.30pm and 5pm, *Neighbours* fans will see Jason and Kyle in episode one. The cult soap, now at episode 1,600 on BBC1, will be aired three times every weekday, as will *EastEnders* (8.30am, 1pm and 8pm).

Those viewers sick of trawling the BBC, ITV and Channel 4 for entertainment after 10.30pm on weeknights will also do well out of UK Gold with stand-up comedy followed at 11pm by a comedy series and then a film.

UK Gold expects to attract about 5 per cent of the 3.4 million British homes now connected to satellite or cable. In five years' time when the number of cable or satellite homes is independently forecast to reach 7.5 million, UK Gold would have an audience of 375,000.

That may seem paltry but it is enough to make Thames, the BBC, and their American partner, Cox Enterprises, a huge pile of cash — not just from advertising but from subscription. UK Gold viewers will eventually have to pay to watch the channel as part of a package with other satellite channels and the channel recently published research which suggested that one third of all adult satellite viewers are ABC1s, the advertisers' favourite.

"I would be very surprised if in our first year there was any home with satellite or cable which did not tune in to us at some point," Mr Lewis says. "We're spending almost £3 million on advertising, but I doubt people will get up on Monday morning and go out and get a dish. But it will definitely encourage those who were contemplating it to get on and do it."



Classic comedy: *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* with Windsor Davies, left, and Melvyn Hayes has stood the test of time and still delights viewers years after it was first shown



Contemporary drama: will programmes such as *The House of Eliott*, left, and *The Ruth Rendell Mysteries*, right, have a place on UK Gold in 20 years' time?



## FIGHT OVER FEES

Hundreds of well-known actors have clashed with the BBC over fees paid for showing repeats on UK Gold. Talks between the BBC and the actors' union Equity about royalty payments for repeats on the new satellite channel collapsed last week. The dispute will not keep UK Gold off the air: the channel has already bought enough archive programmes (120,000 from the BBC and 10,000 from Thames) to keep it running for ten years, but it threatens to deprive the BBC of as much as £67 million a year in revenue from overseas programme sales.

Equity members voted to pull out of a long-standing multi-media royalty agreement with the BBC on the sale of its international and domestic archive programmes to foreign broadcasters when it expires in six months' time. If a compromise is not reached, the BBC will lose an important source of funds for original production. Ian McGarry, the general secretary of Equity, has criticised the BBC for displaying "unprecedented meanness" in offering many of the union's 45,000 members fees which amounted to £2 each per run of a show in a series, or £30 as a minimum fee for a one-off show.

## How the old gold is mined

Programme	First shown	No. times shown terrestrially	Total run*
<i>The Young Ones</i>	9.11.82	3	12 progs
<i>To The Manor Born</i>	30.8.79	4	21
<i>It Ain't Half Hot Mum</i>	3.1.74	2	56
<i>Neighbours</i>	27.10.88 (UK) once spring 86 (Aus)	2***	250+
<i>Dallas</i>	5.9.78 (UK) 2.4.79 (USA)	2	79
<i>Casualty</i>	6.9.88	2	450+****
<i>The Bill</i>	18.10.84	once	450+****

\* All rights to BBC programmes belong to the BBC. At the end of their run on UK Gold they may be shown again on BBC terrestrial television. Continuing drama, such as *EastEnders*, will be seen in parallel, old on Gold, new on terrestrial.  
\*\* UK Gold has access to all episodes of *Neighbours*, which will be shown chronologically. However, if it catches up with the BBC it will have to stop screening.  
\*\*\* The last three seasons of *Dallas* have yet to be repeated.  
\*\*\*\* The Bill will be screened in perpetuity on UK Gold, starting from episode one. This will not affect the screening of new episodes on ITV. As of December 11 478 episodes will have been made.

Robin Hunt

Most of the cast of *Dad's Army* would receive only £30 for the rerun of a series on the new channel. The BBC says its fees are less than those paid for work broadcast on BBC1 and BBC2 because the satellite audience is much smaller.

## EYES ON THE SKY

Television viewers in 3.4 million British homes — about 11 million people — are watching satellite channels. By 1995, viewers in between six and seven million more homes will join them, if independent forecasts are to be believed.

British Sky Broadcasting, which has become synonymous with satellite since the merger two years ago between BSB and Sky, now attracts 22.3 per cent of all viewing in cable and satellite homes with its six-channel mix of films, soaps and dating games. Premier League soccer and 24-hour news.

There are eight more English-language channels outside the BSkyB nexus on the Luxembourg-based Astra satellite: CNN, Screensport, Eurosport, MTV, The Children's Channel, Lifestyle, The Adult Channel and Satellite Jukebox. TVAsia is a multicultural Asian station broadcasting in Hindi, Urdu and English. But the launch of UK Gold represents the first serious challenge to BSkyB.

ITV is also thinking of launching a spin-off on satellite, ITV2.

Of the 32 channels available on Astra, 28 are now broadcasting, many of them French, German and Italian.

But many more channels are available on cable, which is now connected to more than 1.6 million homes after a capital expenditure of £450 million. As of the beginning of July, 552,105 homes had subscribed to watch as many as 69 channels licensed by the Independent Television Commission, including those broadcast by Astra.

Although the recession has slowed the laying of the cable network, by the year 2000, over 14 million homes are expected to have access and between 55 and 60 per cent of those homes will have subscribed, according to ITC forecasts.

Latest data from the Broadcasting Audience Research Board (BARB) shows that all satellite and cable channels get 29.8 per cent of viewing, compared with ITV and Channel 4's combined share of 40.3 per cent and the BBC's share of 29.9 per cent.

# Guilty secret climbs out of Japan's cellar

Tomorrow, representatives of Japan's three million untouchables will take to the streets in protest at their continuing oppression

Tomorrow, under tight police guard and what promises to be a leaden sky, thousands of Japanese men, women and children will rise to challenge the rigid social conventions of their country, defying traditions from which they and their ancestors have been excluded for centuries. Arriving from all extremities of the archipelago, they will assemble in Tokyo's Meiji Park to protest against their plight as members of a hidden community of three million *burakumin*, the untouchables and unmentionables who live in poverty beneath the collective consciousness of 120 million fellow Japanese.

The *burakumin* are the descendants of the tanners, leather workers and grave diggers who, because of Buddhist strictures on handling dead animal matter, were legally

stigmatised and classified as "non-humans" during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Categorised beneath the four social classes of the time — the warriors, farmers, artisans and merchants — they were segregated in outcast settlements which were deliberately omitted from maps. They were forbidden to marry outside their caste, to enter the house of a non-*burakumin*, or to eat, drink or smoke in his presence. They were counted with the numerical suffix, used for counting animals and had to mark themselves with a piece of leather pinned to their clothing.

Today, over a century since the passage of the 1871 emancipation

edict, the residue of that feudal ideology ensures that the *burakumin* remain hidden, still confined to society's basement.

The word "*burakumin*" is edited out of dictionaries, is banned by tacit agreement in the media and is missing in the vocabulary of most politicians, government officials, and most citizens.

It is easy to see why "ordinary" Japanese prefer to pretend that the *burakumin* do not exist. They are at odds with a prized image of

harmony and homogeneity and they tarnish the glowing statistics which make Japan a showcase of prosperity and social well-being.

Yusuke Kobayashi, a 47-year-old *burakumin*, is unemployed in a nation that claims almost full employment. He is illiterate in a nation that boasts total literacy, and he lives on a poverty line that the authorities choose to ignore. He ekes out a subsistence living from occasional day-labouring jobs and shares with six others his one room

shack built from sheets of rusty corrugated iron and plastic in one of 90 *burakumin* slums in Kiryu City, 40 miles north of Tokyo.

Mr Kobayashi's son is a member of the local *Burakumin* Liberation League. He plans to attend tomorrow's protest, which has been called to mark the 29th anniversary of the arrest of Kazuo Ishikawa, a *burakumin* who has spent most of his life in Chiba prison, convicted of a murder which he and many others claim he did not commit.

"Prejudice is everywhere once people discover who we are. We cannot get good jobs. We cannot marry non-*burakumin*. The only way to escape our fate at the bottom of society is to completely erase our identities," Terao Shirabayashi, a rubbish collector and BLL member, says.

So low and embarrassing is the status of the *burakumin* that "ordinary" Japanese when questioned will go to any lengths to deny their existence. "There is no such thing as a slum in this city and all of that unmentionable problem disappeared long before I was born," says a policeman in Kobe, a city that contains 55 *burakumin* ghettos, some of which are among the most notorious slums in Japan, and over 50,000 *burakumin* households, according to the BLL.

Discrimination in employment persists. Over 200 of Japan's largest corporations, many of them household names, are said to have compiled lists in their personnel departments with details of *burakumin* ghettos, household numbers and residents' names, researched and kept up to date by detective agencies, to screen out "unsuitable" job applicants.

Sueo Murakoshi, a BLL director, says: "Our problem is that our existence and the discrimination we suffer can be ignored and denied so easily. I believe our problem is more severe than apartheid."

JOANNA PITMAN

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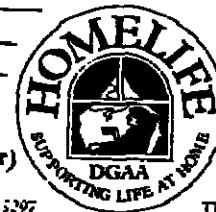
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As police seize more Semtex, Edward Gorman and George Brock consider a failing terror campaign

# Why the IRA is losing its war of attrition

Twenty-three years after it revived its campaign of violence, the IRA resembles a long-distance swimmer attempting to cross an ocean of indifference. Its staying power cannot be denied, but it is no nearer its goal of breaking Britain's connection with Ireland than it was in 1971 when it shot its first British soldier, Gunner Robert Curtis.

The IRA's top activists insist that violence forces British politicians constantly to review the possibility of withdrawing from Northern Ireland. "Inevitably the Irish will come closer to freedom regardless of how tenaciously the Brits cling to their last foothold in this country," a member of the IRA's "headquarters staff" said in Dublin recently.

Asked to specify the evidence of the government's weakening resolve, he pointed to the 40 explosions which the IRA has detonated in mainland Britain since the general election last April and which are leading the security forces' analysts to predict further bombs this Christmas. "How many more Staples Corners and Baltic Exchanges can the British sustain?"

The past supplies a simple answer to this question: a great deal more. Despite multiple atrocities through the 1970s and 1980s in pubs in Birmingham and

Guildford, attacks on army buses, discos and bands, days of paralysed traffic and trains in Belfast and London, harrowing fatalities from Enniskillen to Harrods, British public opinion has hardly budged. Just over 3,000 deaths in the Northern Ireland troubles and billions of pounds worth of damage have left the British government sadder and wiser, but with its central resolve not to be expelled from Ireland by force still intact. As a political issue in the last three general elections, Northern Ireland barely registers on the opinion pollsters' lists.

The IRA can still operate and years of practice have perfected many of its techniques. But the technical accomplishments and the occasional admiration of the security forces only serve to highlight the emptiness of their secret skills. The goal of breaking the British connection is further out of reach than ever. Incessant predictions that the British political establishment would see sense and pull out of an ungrateful, expensive, dangerous and little-known piece of the United Kingdom have been slowly undermined.

A conversation with an IRA official drives home how difficult high-profile violence has become to organise. Gun and bomb attacks inside Northern Ireland itself are

rarely reported in the mainland media. The succession of bombs in London in recent weeks has been treated as almost routine. The chaos on the capital's rail network earlier in the year was miserable, but relegated the IRA in the public's eyes to the status of bad weather or disruptive railmen. Even the huge bomb at the Baltic Exchange on April 10 bought only 48 hours-worth of wall-to-wall media coverage.

The organisation's leadership finds the suggestion that its violence is little more than "background noise" in the life of these islands, particularly annoying. "Any objective recording of the facts would counter that picture," insisted a senior leader of the organisation in a recent interview.

The IRA is torn between two tactical aims now in conflict. Its active service units can try, by attempting to murder Mrs Thatcher in the Grand Hotel or by succeeding in killing Lord Mountbatten, to wear down the British

political class. But those spectacular attempts to terrify an establishment also alienate ordinary people in both Ireland and Britain. To offset unpopularity, the IRA has steadily refined its operations by reducing its list of so-called "legitimate targets". It has turned away from

continue almost oblivious to the battle being fought in its midst.

Street protest and political activism have run out of steam. This decay is evident in the fortunes of Sinn Féin which entered the political mainstream riding high on the drama of the hunger strikes but has since subsided. The IRA's political wing attracts around 10 per cent of the vote in the Province and appears to be stuck there.

The IRA is claiming that the fortunes of Sinn Féin make no difference and are not a realistic yardstick of its own future — a striking change of tone from the days of a strategy once described as a combination of the armalite and the ballot box. Provisional leaders argue that it is not the size of their political constituency which sustains them but the conditions in Northern Ireland which make continued conflict inevitable. "The six county statelet is so fatally and fundamentally flawed, that it is itself — and this is what the British need to understand — which gives

rise to the conditions for conflict," said the member of the headquarters staff. "It isn't the IRA and certainly not the IRA support base. The conditions are the real recipe for conflict. So long as partition remains, there will be opposition."

But this incantation has less and less resonance in the Irish republic itself where only 1.7 per cent of the electorate now votes Sinn Féin. More importantly, the "Green" element within Fianna Fáil which considers itself the guardian of Irish nationalism in mainstream politics, is hardly the force it was in the 1970s and early 1980s. There was a time 10 years ago when a Fianna Fáil prime minister, Charles Haughey, could appeal to the unfulfilled ambition for Irish unity among his party with talk of Northern Ireland as a "failed political entity". Today, Mr Haughey's successor Albert Reynolds is seriously contemplating toning down or even abandoning the venerable articles of the constitution which lay claim to Northern Ireland. Old-style republicanism is out in the cold.

Despite all of this, the IRA has no intention of giving up. It seems quite capable of staring defeat in the face for many more years. "It remains our intention to meet the enemy wherever and whenever possible," said the IRA command-

er, "and it remains our firm intention to sustain our activity and where possible to escalate it." The IRA can switch on a higher level of violence when it chooses, but fresh escalations bring no new rewards. The central questions of British security and political policy are now about an endgame. What is the most effective way of closing the IRA down? Internment; new political structures which will tempt them into constitutional politics; or an end to constitutional tinkering as a terminal discouragement of IRA dreams of forcing change?

Although his remark was vigorously disowned, a senior Sinn Féin official recently suggested that if Britain issued a declaration of intent to withdraw from Northern Ireland, a prolonged period of peace would occur before Britain actually left. This implausible proposal was, by the standards of previous IRA intransigence, one of the most pragmatic concessions ever contemplated.

Two decades of bombing reveals that the modern republican cause and campaign are running against the tide of history. The IRA's members are as single-minded, well-equipped and unemotional as they have ever been, but they are making no progress. The swimmer has not yet drowned but is merely treading water.

**'The IRA is swimming against the tide of history: 23 years of bombing have failed to shift the resolve of Westminster'**

no-warning bomb attacks designed to kill large numbers of civilians to its present policy of issuing warnings. The Provisional IRA can be seen more now as a "designer terrorist" organisation, no longer as brutal and radical as it once was. The troubles in the 1990s are more than ever a private underground war between dedicated but unseen rivals which allows civilised life to

## Mugged by the statistics

Figures purporting to show that crime levels are rising mean little but breed a climate of fear

Crime wave time is here again. This week not one but two sets of crime figures emerged from the Home Office. It is therefore time to put the cracked record back on the turntable. I repeat, these figures are rubbish. They mean nothing. They are devoid of sense. They should not be collected. Those peddling them should be arrested for mendacity, for spreading public alarm and for demanding salaries with menaces.

Since "soaring crime" leaves even naked Madonna standing in the race for headline appeal, my plea will be ignored. I shall therefore present a foolproof proposal for reversing the crime wave completely, but more of that later. First some background. The two sets of statistics that appeared on Wednesday were the police "notifiable offences" total for the year and the separate Home Office British crime survey.

The first of these is complete tosh. That proper statisticians lend credit to it proves Bernard Shaw: all professions are conspiracies against the laity. The figure is not of crime, despite all the headlines, but of offences entered in books at police stations, whence they are doctored and then sent to the Home Office. The latter use them to scare the Treasury into giving more money to policemen. These figures show crime growing and have done so ever since the 1830s.

Equating crime recorded by the police with real crime is like counting the pebbles on a beach by counting the ones on top. The more counts are made, the more are likely to be found. The reason is that each year there are more policemen, more telephones, more insurance policies, more lawyers, more crimes defined by Parliament and probably more statisticians. Last year Gloucestershire recorded a "crime wave" when one villain told the police about 3,000 previ-

**SIMON JENKINS**

ously unknown thefts. Three years ago Thames valley "sex crime soared" following a series of police raids on one homosexual lavatory in Slough. In Salford I recall a "drugs crime epidemic" when police decided to record dozens of glue-sniffers they had previously cautioned.

Such statistical inflation is grotesque and timeless. The children's acts of 1907 and 1933 brought thousands of young people into reach of the courts. They led to instant crime waves that were purely definitional but caused public sensations. In the late 1970s vandalism "doubled" when the Home Office ended the lower value limit on minor incidents. Hundreds of thousands more crimes were recorded and vandalism "soared" by 50 per cent. Figures are still published showing crime trends since the war. They are meaningless.

The black economy is a huge vat of crime into which a politician or statistician may dip at leisure. The Home Secretary can record as much theft or fraud as he chooses: he has only to pay more policemen to go looking for it. A small shift in no-claims bonuses may have a drastic impact on reported car crime. A sensitive police domestic violence unit will lead to a rash of recorded rapes and assaults. I repeat, police crime figures are rubbish.

The rubbish is put in some perspective by the second set of figures, the British crime survey (BCS). It says that the police know of, and thus record, only one out of three actual crimes. The BCS confidently asserts that crime has risen by 14 per cent in the past five years, against a police rise of 39 per cent. Violent crime is up 9 per cent

against the police's 34 per cent. Even assuming the British crime survey keeps its sample constant — a rash assumption — the discrepancy is glaring. It is put down to the public being more inclined to report incidents because of more telephone ownership and more insurance cover.

The effect of this discrepancy is blatantly to undermine the police figures. The crime "wave" could be no more than a telephone wave or an insurance wave. Does the Home Office apologise for years of deceit and say it will stop collating the police figures? And miss a chance for ministers to hyperventilate twice a year over social decay and the immorality of youth? No way.

Is crime really increasing? Goodness knows. We are in the realm not of statistics but archaeology. With each dig, a new layer of misdemeanour which society once took in its stride is unearthed and catalogued as a crime. A third of all crime involves vehicles, another third is theft. It would be odd if these did not increase as cars and consumer durables increase. Does this mean a more evil or more dangerous community, or just a richer one?

Smart neighbourhoods may see more crime as crooks have more cars, but what of poorer ones where violence used to be endemic but went unrecorded? Are we becoming less tolerant of youthful misbehaviour, or more inclined to pass the buck to the police? Who can really tell us the priest, the teacher, the doctor? Certainly not the statistician. I can only agree with the social historian, Geoffrey Pearson, that statements about crime waves cannot be true or false, but "logically undecidable". We must sigh with Matthew Arnold, "that one thing only has been lent/ To youth and age in common — discontent."

But rather than go on whistling into the wind I present a modest proposal. "Soaring crime" head-



Gartermen lying in wait in Victorian London: fear of street violence is still easily fanned by lurid images and crime wave reports

lines are caused not by criminals but by statisticians. They must be told to stop recording more crime and start recording less. Rising crime is a symptom of a wimpish society. Let us tell society to hang tough. Cut from the figures such semi-crimes as "attempted and not-therefrom vehicles". Cut thefts from unsecured motor cars leaving such cars in the street is like throwing £20 notes in the gutter. Cut all thefts worth less than £50. Treat them as accidents.

For good measure, the police

should charge insurance companies for verifying petty burglaries that are not worth investigating. More companies would then pay up without police notification. If the public does want to record a burglary, it should do so in person at a police station; telephones should be used only to summon the police to incidents. As for violence, refuse a statistical accolade to any male who is victim of a common assault when drunk. He probably asked for it. Refuse to record sex and drugs offences subject to a

caution. Sensation-mongering programmes such as *Crimewatch*, that exploit public, and especially female, fear of crime should be banned.

These measures will not reduce crime. But they will give that illusion. The published totals for auto-crime, burglary and assault would be slashed. This will correct decades of distortion and combat the real current evil, which is public fear of being overwhelmed by crime. Britain has one of the lowest proclaimed crime rates in Europe

yet the highest fear of crime.

Anti-social behaviour is a constant in any community. As we get richer we stamp more such behaviour as criminal. The BCS suggests that we probably do steal more as we have more to steal. We possibly shoot each other more if we have more weapons to hand. If we criminalise certain acts, such as polluting the environment or taking certain drugs, we will have more crime. That's life. But why scare the wits out of ourselves with dud statistics?

## Now build us a cabinet

NORMAN LAMONT'S Mansion House speech last night held out little hope of an immediate end to the recession, but the Chancellor is at least providing some gainful employment for the construction industry, one of the worst hit sectors of the economy.

Lamont delivered his speech at Guildhall, because of building work at the Mansion House. It is a process he is familiar with. Extensive renovation work has just been completed at Dorneywood, the Chancellor's magnificent grace-and-favour weekend residence. Set in 214 acres of Buckinghamshire woodland, the property — complete with swimming-pool and 11 bedrooms — is administered by the Dorneywood Trust, which refuses to disclose the cost.

"Major renovations were carried out to the roof; a new boilerhouse was built; the central-heating was updated, and associated decorating works were carried out," says Leslie Croydon from the trust. "The funds come from a private charitable trust. We don't want to encourage enquiries into the trust but it did not cost the taxpayer anything."

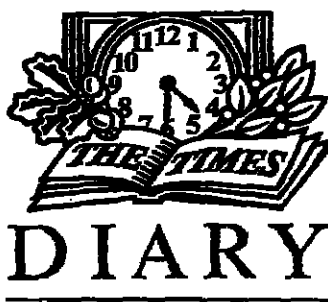
The taxpayer will see little of the

improvements. The landscaped gardens of the Queen Anne mansion are opened to the public only four times a year, and visitors are not allowed inside the house.

Lamont was forced to abandon Dorneywood, which he inherited from Kenneth Baker after the election, due to the invasion of the builders. It means the Chancellor, a keen ornithologist, was robbed of a favourite pastime: stealing into the nearby Burnham Woods, with his trousers pulled over his pyjamas, to listen to the nightingales.

Number 11 Downing Street has itself undergone expensive security improvements recently, and John Major too has succumbed to the Jackie Onassis syndrome. A multi-million pound programme of renovations at Number 10 to upgrade security is under way. The work will last several months, and the cost will be borne by the Treasury. Major has in alternative accommodation at Admiralty House during the improvements.

Even Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker known for her elegant taste, is doing her bit for the men in hard hats. Decorators have moved into her official residence in the



**DIARY**

Palace of Westminster. The enormous dining-room is being decorated in shades of beige and new rugs and curtain pelmets are being installed.

**And I'm Napoleon**

THERE is much glee among Tory Euro-sceptics over the latest humiliation suffered by Jacques Delors. Just two months before the EC tears down its internal borders, Delors, head of the European Commission and the architect of the Europe sans frontiers plan, has discovered just how binding red tape can be.

He and a 60-strong party of diplomats flying from a meeting in Strasbourg to Brussels on Tuesday night had their aeroplane diverted

to Charleroi airport in southern Belgium. Immigration officials delayed the party for 45 minutes while personal documents were checked.

It was a novel experience for Delors, who is usually waved through immigration control. "It was a ridiculous and brutal application of the law," says one irate Commission official. A letter of complaint is on its way to the airport officials, signed by no less a man than David Williamson, secretary-general of the Commission.

**From grot to grotto**

OFFICIALS at the Department of Employment have surfaced after the latest unemployment figures to come to the rescue of Kylie and Co. Dimly aware of the growing attraction of Australian soap stars in Britain, the government has told the actors union Equity that it cannot ban crews from *Neighbours* or *Home and Away* from acting in British pantomimes at Christmas.

A record number of antipodeans are appearing on the stage this year, and Equity has vigorously opposed some of the applications for work permits. Those planning to tread the boards include *Neighbours* regulars Stefan Dennis (Paul) and Ian Smith (Harold), as



well as numerous others from Ramsey Street and four from *Home and Away*.

But the Department of Employment has told Equity that it wants to ban the Australians. It must also consider barring sporting stars such as Ian Botham and Frank Bruno from the stage. "What we cannot do is say who should appear. We can only react to requests for work permits," says a department spokesman. "In this case we see these people as central to the panto — the show must go on."



One person who will be less than pleased that Nicholas Ridley has taken his seat in the Lords is his cousin Priscilla Longland, the sister of the late Lord Longland.

Priscilla, a transport minister, Ridley agreed plans for extensions to the Lewes to Polegate road in Sussex — right through Priscilla's back garden at Wootton Manor.

Yesterday's embarrassing leak of the Foreign Office's confidential response to the Danish opposition's proposals on Maastricht was no dastardly Euro-sceptic plot. Instead, an official who had been photocopying documents on Hong Kong inadvertently included the secret memo in the pile of papers for the press. Journalists expecting news on Hong Kong could not believe their luck when the gem on Maastricht popped out. The FO would not confirm the official's status. But if he wasn't a junior official yesterday, he will be today.

**Cheep and cheerful**

FEATHERS are expected to fly at the Wimbledon home of racing driver James Hunt tomorrow, when the former Formula One world champion puts his collection of 150 pedigree budgies up for auction. Hunt, who began keeping budgies in 1985 as an antidote to his hectic life, has built his collection into an impressive stud. Although he was initially keen to sell all the birds together, there were not takers, and he is selling them individually.

"Something has to give, and I can't afford the time to run a stud of top quality exhibition budgies," says Hunt.

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OLD COME  
The Danish

The arguments for  
140 years ago, the man  
I would have given it  
my hand, and my head  
there then. She told me  
in my mother's ear  
some 150 years ago  
in Britain feel equally  
real in the home of  
William I. The General  
of the battle of Tewkesbury  
marks the culmination  
of legislative prepara-  
tion of whether women  
should be priests. As early  
as 1848, the first women  
agreed that there were  
objections to women  
in 1954 did it decide  
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October 30 1992





## A TRAGEDY OF ERRORS

Officials should now pay for their mistakes

In last night's Mansion House speech, Norman Lamont laid out reforms designed to improve decision-making in the Treasury and Bank of England and expose these secretive institutions to greater public accountability. After the decades of ERM membership and devaluation, institutional changes are both inevitable and welcome. But they should not be allowed to deflect attention from an equally necessary and urgent task. Norman Lamont will probably not continue as Chancellor much longer. The other people involved in the crucial decisions must also be made to accept responsibility for their mistakes.

John Wilby, the head of the London Ambulance Service, has rightly resigned this week. Robert Pridde, the civil servant responsible for the coal industry, has been transferred to another post. Yet the Treasury and Bank are apparently being shielded from accountability not only for the ERM fiasco, but also the BCCI banking scandal. Making senior civil servants responsible when their policies lead to disaster is not a matter of seeking scapegoats or trying to distract attention from ministers. If John Major is sincere in his rhetoric about improving government and making it more accountable, then to expose poor judgment at the very top of the civil service is much more important than to attack rudeness and idleness among petty bureaucrats through citizens' charters.

A means must be found for senior civil servants to be held more accountable for the advice they give to ministers. Given the scale and complexity of modern government, ministers have neither the time nor the technical expertise to assess all the evidence relating to their decisions. That is the job of their official advisers. Even on such central

issues as the costs and benefits of ERM membership, or the possibility of a realignment before Black Wednesday, the Chancellor and prime minister simply did not have the economic expertise to gather the evidence for themselves.

On September 8, for example, Mr Lamont predicted that "devaluation would lead to a damaging rise in interest rates". Interest rates have fallen sharply since devaluation, but Mr Lamont should not bear all the blame for this inaccurate prediction. The Chancellor is not an economic forecaster or professional financier. Even though the question of whether devaluation would lead to higher or lower interest rates was fundamental to all his policy decisions, Mr Lamont simply did not have the expert knowledge to "decide". If he was convinced that devaluation would lead to disaster, it could only have been on the basis of unequivocal Treasury advice. That advice has been now been proved completely mistaken, not only on the question of interest rates but on a multitude of other issues connected with membership of the ERM.

From this dismal record, three inferences are possible. Either the Treasury and Bank of England were run by well-meaning men and women who simply did not understand the economic and financial consequences of ERM membership and withdrawal. Or they were run by ideologues who deliberately hid from the Chancellor all arguments that conflicted with their point of view. The third possibility is that top officials offered balanced, impartial and correct advice, only to be ignored by the politicians. If this were true, the officials in question should now be required to prove it. The new openness announced by the Chancellor yesterday must be accompanied by accountability.

## COLD COMFORT FROM DENMARK

The Danish "solution" is no solution for Mr Major

John Major has chosen his weapon for next week's duel. His decision to take his backbench rebels head on with a "substantive" motion on Maastricht has the merit of appearing more courageous than resort to a procedural motion, while winning him Liberal support to offset the larger number of Tory rebels.

He must still reduce their number if the government is to carry the day. Douglas Hurd's stern admonition last Wednesday that the Commons must decide whether or not "it wants the prime minister to preside over the Edinburgh summit" may not have been quite the slip his officials claimed. The gameplan seems to be to convince Tory backbenchers that this is the vote of confidence which, formally, it is not.

Mr Major's choice wrongfoots Labour, which will have to explain why it is voting against a European policy with which it formally agrees. John Smith will concentrate on the charge that this confrontation is premature, by Mr Major's own reckoning, since subsidiarity and the Danish problem remain unsettled.

Mr Major's EC partners, who are slowly realising just how much trouble he is in, have done their best to help. Italy ratified the Maastricht treaty yesterday, and the Danes have presented their Edinburgh shopping list earlier than planned. The Danish move may have tipped the balance in Downing Street. Despite the awkward publication of a sceptical internal Foreign Office memorandum, Mr Major and Douglas Hurd would have MPs believe that the rest is history.

The gloss they rushed to put on it was that the Danes have spoken wisely and well, British diplomacy will soon steer its partners

towards a meeting of minds and the Maastricht treaty will glide safely into harbour next year. Mr Major hastened to add that since Parliament's procedures are "long and complex", it had better start soon, if Britain is not to drag in history's wake.

Roy Scenario's appearance is likely to be brief. Some of Denmark's demands, notably its emphasis on more democracy and openness in the EC, and a clear division of duties between the Community and national governments, are helpful to Mr Major. But on EMU, Denmark wants to strengthen its opt-out clause in the treaty to one as solid as Britain's. And it wants nothing to do either with a common defence policy or with any obligations arising from "citizenship of the Union". France will vehemently resist both of these.

Above all, the package has been agreed with Danish opposition parties, who insist that it is non-negotiable. Denmark says that it does not seek amendments to the treaty; but that the treaty must be "changed", in terms that are legally binding. This Jacques Delors dismissed out of hand yesterday. But Danes will not be satisfied with an Edinburgh declaration, because it would lack the necessary legal force. As a treaty, Maastricht would prevail in EC law over separate legislation. Protocols would have the force of a treaty, but would in effect amend Maastricht: which is just what the other 11 member states have so far refused to contemplate.

The odds must still be on deadlock at Edinburgh. Denmark's agenda is clear, its demands specific. Publication clears the air. But it does not solve Mr Major's problems, either next week or for months to come.

## THE PRIESTLY VOCATION

The arguments for female ordination are now irresistible

Exactly 140 years ago, Florence Nightingale wrote: "I would have given the Church my head, my hand, and my heart. She would not have them. She told me to go back and do crochets in my mother's drawing room." Today some 1,300 ordained women deacons in Britain feel equally passionate in their calling to become Anglican priests and as unwilling to be fobbed off with crochets. On November 11, the General Synod of the Church of England will decide their fate.

The vote marks the culmination of eight years of legislative preparation on the question of whether women should be ordained priests. As early as 1975, the Synod agreed that there were no fundamental objections to women priests, but not until 1984 did it decide to take positive action. None the less, the theological objections remain, particularly among the Church's Anglo-Catholic community.

Their main argument is that Christ was a man, and therefore that the priest must be a man. As a syllogism, it sounds neatly logical, but as a theological argument, it is harder to justify. Genesis states: "God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Man in this sense includes woman. But when it came to sending Jesus to Earth, it could not be as a hermaphrodite. To choose a male form made sense in those days. Had Jesus been female, would women now be guarding the priesthood against the opposite sex as jealously as do men?

The stronger argument, perhaps, is that of tradition. The Church of England is by its nature conservative and established. For

nearly 2,000 years, it has elevated only men to the priesthood. Why bow to secular pressure now?

It would not be the first time. The Church endorsed slavery too until that stance became unacceptable. As Virginia Bottomley pointed out last week, "It is odd to think that women can fulfil virtually every role in society, including head of state and head of government, but that there is some biological prohibition from service as an ordained minister." The pressure from inside and outside the Church is becoming irresistible.

Would the introduction of women priests into the Church of England irreparably set back the cause of Christian unity? The Roman Catholic Church continues ecumenical dialogue with the Anglican Communion, which has women priests in about half its member churches. But no one should delude himself that reconciliation is around the corner. Anglican holy orders were declared null and void by Leo XIII in a papal bull in September 1896. The declaration has never been rescinded. This Pope would not consider reconciliation: a new Pope might have a different view on women priests even within his own Church.

The legislation on which the Synod will vote acknowledges the concerns of the conservative minority. Parishes will be allowed to vote against having a woman priest; vicars and rectors will be able to decide who may and may not minister in a parish; and bishops already in office will be allowed to maintain the status quo within their dioceses. Those clergy who still want to resign will be helped financially. The opponents cannot ask for more.

## Planning nation's energy policy

From Lord Flowers, FRS, and Professor Emeritus L. E. J. Roberts, FRS

Sir, We are promised a wide-ranging review of energy policy, to be completed in the next three months. Such a review should include questions of demand as well as supply if the maximum economic advantage is to be gained, and we are committed to causing less pollution.

At the Rio earth summit in June the prime minister agreed a target of reducing our emissions of carbon dioxide to 1990 levels by the year 2000, and stricter targets may well be required later. In this context, a move to generating electricity by burning gas rather than coal is a short-term gain.

In the longer term, gas should be reserved for other uses and our electricity be supplied by a balance of coal-burning and non-polluting technologies. The latter include nuclear power, which was due to be reviewed in 1994, and an increasing contribution from wind and tidal power.

But the most urgent need is action towards energy conservation. We must learn to use our precious fuel reserves more efficiently than we do. A phased reduction in coal mining would be more acceptable if it were seen to be linked to job creation in sectors such as the construction industry, electricity generation, electrical appliances and transport, aimed at reducing long-term energy demand.

The exploitation of many technologies already available would serve to move towards the Rio targets, boost the economy now and lead to lasting economic gain, less pollution and improved security of energy supply.

Yours faithfully,  
LORD FLOWERS,  
L. E. J. ROBERTS,  
53 Athenaeum Road, N20,  
October 23.

From Mr David Penfold

Sir, The question should be not just which fuel to use in power stations, but also the best way to burn the limited amount of gas left in our reserves. Gas is most efficiently used for space heating using modern boilers with high thermal efficiencies. Coal is better burnt in large plants, where it is practicable to achieve good combustion efficiency and to apply complex pollution controls.

We need an energy policy for the whole country, rather than one for each industry. It needs to address the environmental as well as the economic and social implications of the choices made and to consider the long-term consequences.

There are more efficient and less polluting ways of burning coal which need developing to commercial viability. It is short-sighted that development funding for some of these projects is apparently being phased out.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID PENFOLD,  
David Penfold Associates  
(Environmental management consultancy),  
17 Norwood Park, Birkby,  
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire,  
October 27.

## Women barristers

From Miss Jean Henderson

Sir, When I started practising as a barrister — I was called in 1943 and practised until 1984 — there was one other woman barrister about in the Temple and a few others scattered over the country. We were barristers, not women barristers. We were welcomed and helped and took the rough with the smooth as barristers.

Gradually our numbers have increased and this has led to what I regard as having been the wrong turning. We have separated ourselves in the profession with complaints and demands for equal opportunities ("The bench is not a men's club", October 20; letter, October 28).

I find this misplaced and demeaning. (I may say, in response to Helena Kennedy's article of October 8, that I cannot recall a single occasion on which I felt I had been unfairly treated by the judge.)

If we have an appointment in our sights let it be, if it comes, on merit backed by experience and competence, not clouded and diminished by considerations of quotas.

Yours faithfully,  
JEAN HENDERSON,  
42 Hampstead Way, NW11.

## Harder to remember

From Mr Bernard Kaukas

Sir, There is an American affiliate to the Craft (Can't Remember a Flipping Thing) Club (letters, October 22, 26, 28). It was founded by George Burns who, when tying his shoelace, produced the inspired thought: "Hello! What else can I be doing while I am down here?"

Yours truly,  
BERNARD KAUKAS,  
Savage Club,  
1 Whitehall Place, SW1,  
October 28.

Letters to the editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## Reorganising London's hospitals

From Mr Ian Guyster

Sir, In the light of the statement (report, October 24) recently made by the secretary of state for health that "London has too many hospitals and too many beds", can somebody explain to me why there should be any waiting list at all for such beds at all in the London area?

Yours faithfully,  
IAN GUYSTER,  
Ian Guyster & Co., Solicitors,  
Edinburgh House,  
40 Great Portland Street, W1,  
October 27.

From the Director of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation

Sir, Bernard Tomlinson has recommended that all London's renowned postgraduate medical research institutes are amalgamated with multi-faculty colleges of the University of London, which cater for a broad range of subjects from astrophysics to sociology. In the view of this federation (which is a school of the university) this would be unnecessary and unhelpful.

There is indeed a good case for strong academic links between the institutes and the basic science faculties of these colleges. Full-scale amalgamation, however, would threaten the very strengths in clinical research which we should be trying to enhance in London.

All the institutes are linked with specialist hospitals. For example, the National Heart and Lung Institute

works with Royal Brompton on the same site in Chelsea, providing a vital link between medical research and patient care. Financial amalgamation with the large colleges would inevitably weaken that link and lead to less devoted management and loss of research focus.

Clinical research in London is already under threat from the Tomlinson proposals to change the funding arrangements for patients who take part in medical research programmes. Combining unwanted reorganisation with changes in funding could do serious damage to London's ability to produce world-class research.

Yours sincerely,  
MALCOLM GREEN, Director,  
British Postgraduate Medical Federation,  
University of London,  
33 Millman Street, London WC1.

From Mr Christopher Bishop

Sir, Your leader in today's *Times* neglected one important aspect of the Tomlinson report. Its recommendations could provide Bernard Levin with a wide choice of sites on which to relocate the London School of Economics; sites ranging from one in the heart of the City to another within swimming distance of the Palace of Westminster.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER BISHOP,  
Laurel Cottage, Daglingworth,  
Cirencester, Gloucestershire,  
October 24.

## Legal aid and access to justice

From the Director of the National Consumer Council

Sir, The Lord Chancellor's latest proposals for legal aid (report, October 26) are largely about controlling rising costs rather than addressing some of the structural problems of the system.

The existing scheme fails to meet consumers' needs in housing, social security, debt, employment and immigration law. Eligibility has fallen dramatically despite the costs. Many people remain unaware of their eligibility.

The Lord Chancellor should develop a strategy that assesses consumers' needs and ensures equal access to justice. It would examine ways of providing publicly funded legal services and the need for reform of legal procedure.

We suggest a mixed model of solicitors in private practice and salaried services. It must take into account the views of consumers.

Yours faithfully,  
RUTH EVANS, Director,  
National Consumer Council,  
20 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1,  
October 26.

From Mr Ian Kelcey

Sir, The Lord Chancellor in his "keynote" speech to the Law Society (report, October 26) reiterated his intention to impose fixed fees. Such a course of action is destined to place the fabric of the criminal defence system at risk. In seeking to justify the unjustifiable he says that fixed fees will start to cap the legal-aid budget and produce greater efficiency among practitioners.

As a legal-aid solicitor I urge him to think again. There have been far too many miscarriages of justice in the recent past. The government should be even-handed when it comes to the cost of detection and prosecution on

the one hand and the cost of defence on the other.

A royal commission is investigating our criminal justice system. The Lord Chancellor has consistently refused calls to refer this issue to this independent tribunal. If his arguments are so overwhelming, why should the head of the judiciary be afraid to allow the commission to report on the matter?

Yours faithfully,  
IAN KELCEY,  
Kelcey & Hall (solicitors),  
Fosters Chambers,  
17 Small Street, Bristol, Avon,  
October 26.

From Mr J. J. R. Dirks

Sir, If the legal-aid system is to continue to support its current workload change is inevitable. This may lead to fewer but larger firms who can meet the criteria set by the Legal Aid Board. They will sub-franchise their management and quality-control skills to smaller practitioners within their group.

This could result in no more than four firms acting as main franchisees in each of the 62 major court centres. The number of large firms acting as main suppliers of specialist legal-aid litigation would decline from 3,000 to 248, leaving the smaller firms and advice agencies with the more general advice and assistance work.

A reduction in suppliers does not automatically lead to fewer lawyers available to undertake the work, but it does mean a fundamental shift in practice management methods to cope with increasing volumes of work. Franchising is a logical step in the development of legal-aid services at a cost which society is able to meet.

Yours faithfully,  
J. J. R. DIRKS (solicitor),  
243 Pensby Road,  
Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside,  
October 28.

## Fees for adoption

From Professor John Triseliotis

Sir, The government's announced intention to charge couples seeking to adopt (report, October 20) is incompatible with the appeal made to them to offer their homes to children needing new families. Over the last 15 or so years Britain has achieved a proud record in securing the adoption of many older children and those with disabilities who would otherwise have to spend the rest of their childhood in institutions and without a social base in life.

The argument that charging would place in-country applicants on the same footing with those applying to adopt inter-country does not take account of significant differences. Were this proposal to go forward it could jeopardise the future of many children.

Yours faithfully,  
J. TRISELIOTIS,  
University of Edinburgh,  
Department of Social Policy  
and Social Work,  
Adam Ferguson Building,  
George Square, Edinburgh 8,  
October 21.

## Charity trustees

From Mr Anthony Swainson

Sir, David Forrest (letter, October 22) argues for the setting up of an independent organisation to represent the interests of charity trustees. Trustees are the accountable leaders of charities, but also, generally speaking, important persons carrying out voluntary work. The day-to-day work is carried out by professional directors or secretaries who do not even have a governing body.

parent body for trustees would improve the efficiency of their work. Trustees are busy people whose names change all the time on charity committees.

It is better, in my view, to ensure that the professionals have the internal responsibility for the efficient running of charities.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY SWAINSON (Director,  
Lord's Taverners, 1972-91),  
48 Springhead,  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

## Parris enquiry on languages fluency

From Mr D. R. Pinyoun

Sir, I congratulate Matthew Parris on his article (October 26) querying the cost-effectiveness of "teaching" foreign languages in our schools. This part of the national curriculum is a sacred cow long overdue for the slaughterhouse.

Parents are very frustrated to find that after up to five years "learning" a language, their offspring are incapable of using it in the field to procure the necessities of life.

Not having taken Spanish at school, I found myself leaving my elder girl standing, with the help of a few weeks' concentration on a BBC "Get by" course on tape and a decent phrasebook. This happened on three annual holidays. She secured a B grade at GCSE.

My younger daughter is in her third year of French, and getting "commendation sheets" from her teacher, yet this summer in France was incapable of ordering food, drink or shelter, asking directions, or interpreting common signs and notices. Let money saved on language "teaching" be put to good use in raising our abysmally low standards of English literacy and basic mathematics.

Yours faithfully,  
D. R. PINYOUN,  
21 St Matthews Road,  
Sandwell, West Midlands,  
October 27.

From Mr S. T. Eason

Sir, Matthew Parris might like to visit my school. He will find more than 600 pupils studying French to GCSE level, the vast majority with significant success and every appearance of understanding the importance of foreign language competence.

He will find ever-increasing numbers choosing to study German or Russian as well, both for GCSE and for A level. He will find increasing demand in the sixth form for language courses for those who have chosen to specialise in mathematical and scientific disciplines.

Everywhere, he will find pupils who can speak, and who enjoy speaking, one or more foreign languages.

Yours faithfully,  
S. T. EASON  
(Head of modern languages),  
Christ's Hospital,  
Horsham, West Sussex,  
October 26.

From Councillor John Hart

Sir, I wish that Matthew Parris had extended his quizzing of Undergound and train travellers on their knowledge of French to their knowledge of, say, algebra, physics or trigonometry.

People forget. Language is particularly forgettable, something to do with practice and short-term memory. Alexander Selkirk, the original "Robinson Crusoe", when rescued after almost five years on his desert island with only goats and cats for conversational company, could only half-mumble his native English.

Not knowing anything of at least one other language does minds. The best analogy is perhaps provincialism of mind, and the complacency that goes with provincialism, even if that province is as big as the English-speaking world.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir, yours faithfully,  
JOHN HART,  
Members' Room, Town Hall,  
London Borough of Barnet,  
Hendon, NW4,  
October 26.

From Professor Sally Tomlinson

Sir, Matthew Parris is too pessimistic in his assumption that British schoolchildren do not want to learn other languages. There are undoubtedly many problems in finding suitably qualified teachers and in resourcing language teaching but in most schools children are keen to learn other languages and to learn about life in other countries.

One reason for this is that many children now realise that they may find employment in European or other countries not available in Britain. There are also a large number of British schoolchildren who already speak, in addition to English, two or more Asian languages and they are usually keen to learn European languages.

Yours faithfully,  
SALLY TOMLINSON,  
Department of Advanced and Continuing Education,  
Goldsmiths' College,  
New Cross, SE14,  
October 27.

From Mrs Pamela Wighwick

Sir, Matthew Parris's sample of 100 London Tube and rail passengers had probably all taken the old French O level, where there was far less emphasis on the spoken word than there is in GCSE. Perhaps August was not a very good month in which to do a survey, as most of those who can speak foreign languages would be away using them on the Continent.

Yours truly,  
PAMELA WIGHTWICK,  
Godolphin & Latimer School  
(French department),  
Ilkley Road, Hammersmith, W6,  
October 27.







OBITUARIES



Gael Elton Mayo at the age of 18

GAEL ELTON MAYO

Gael Elton Mayo, Comtesse de Chamberet, author and painter, died in London on October 16 aged 69. She was born in Sydney on April 9, 1923.

ANYONE who had the good fortune to meet Gael Elton Mayo, will know that she had an aura, something denied to most other people. She was a beautiful woman and her beauty was somehow connected to her intellectual as well as her physical qualities. It went beyond her famous irresistible attractiveness and managed even to survive the consequences of operation after operation for cancer of the face.

She lived, just, to see her last book, *Living with Beelzebub*, published by Quartet. This is a landmark in the literature of illness and provides a dark, though never dispirited, contrast to the humour and vivacity of her previous autobiographical books, *The Mad Mosaic* and *The End of a Dream* (also Quartet).

Gael Elton Mayo was the younger daughter of the industrial psychiatrist Professor Elton Mayo. Her elder sister is the distinguished sociologist Patricia Elton Mayo, widow of Dunstan Curtis, one of the pioneers of the Council of Europe. The family moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, when Gael was two. Elton Mayo was soon a cult figure in America and a professor for industrial research at Harvard. Gael had every expectation of a secure childhood in one of the world's most agreeable towns. But the roof fell in when the children were banished to an English boarding school. All Gael Mayo's life was spent gaining and

losing homes and she felt that a sense of dispossession, with the accompanying anxiety, affected her intimately, even physically. In *Living with Beelzebub* she wrote: "I was eight and terrified. Why on earth were we sent away, when they were so loving. It is a paradox that remains unsolvable."

Her schooling was bleak. Holidays were spent among distant relations in different places, sometimes she was separated from her sister, with her adored parents seen but once a year. But she studied for a degree at the Sorbonne. No wonder that someone so clever, beautiful and fundamentally insecure married so young. In 1939 she met her first husband, Vsevolod von Schnezhur, a Russian émigré. With the war began one of the great escape stories. *The Mad Mosaic* tells how she made it her mission to smuggle her husband from occupied France into Vichy France and thence via Spain to America. Progress was interrupted when she gave birth to her son Stephen in a hospital in Bordeaux during an air raid, nearly alone, because the doctors and nurses had fled. She was 17.

The marriage did not long survive arrival in New York. *The Mad Mosaic* has about it something of the disturbing impermanence of life depicted in the film *Casablanca*. She published her own first novel at 20, married Guy Vincent de Maisonneuve and bore him a daughter, Guislaine.

They did not have money and Gael earned a living as a model, actress, journalist and painter. In that golden age of photo-journalism she was associated with Robert Capa. David

Seymour and Henri Cartier Bresson and *Magnum*. Her painting was encouraged by Moise Kislising who did a famous portrait of her. Her style was semi-naïf, yet knowing and always distinctive.

By that time she had met her third husband, the Comte de Chamberet. Her account in *The End of a Dream* of the restoration of his chateau in a lonely part of the Jura is a brilliant account of life in France.

The daughter of this marriage, Georgia, provided the closest relationship in a life lit by passion and creativity but perhaps not destined to be maternal. Gael contracted a fatal form of cancer when Georgia was eight.

This was a child she was determined to raise. She should have died quite quickly; she fought the illness for twenty years. Her marriage broke and was mended, only for Georges de Chamberet to die suddenly and prematurely. There were more ups and downs. A home in another wild part of France was bought but the illness meant it soon had to be sold. Disfiguring operations accompanied enchanting books. It is difficult for someone who is not a public figure, and not an egoist, to write three volumes of autobiography. That they are among the best of our time is testimony to the fierce fixation of Gael's story.

Beauty, charm and most artistic gifts are evanescent. But fighting to endure for a purpose is not. For all their own charm and grace, these books have a classical hold on that marriage between love and death which is the right stuff for literature. They will survive.

MAJOR-GENERAL B. D. JONES

Major-General Basil Douglas Jones, CB, CBE, Inspector of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, 1958-60, died on October 15 aged 89. He was born in Devonshire on May 14, 1903.

BY COINCIDENCE "B. D.", as he was known, because he loathed the name Basil, was one of three senior Royal Army Ordnance Corps officers who transferred from combat arms during the mechanisation of the Army in the 1930s and whose obituaries have appeared in these columns within a month. They applied to transfer for different reasons, but all three became major-generals and important ordnance policy-makers before they retired in the 1960s.

"B. D." was a Welshman, the son of the Rev B. Jones. Educated at Plymouth College and Sandhurst, he was commissioned into the Welch Regiment in 1924. He served with them in Shanghai and Singapore, and in 1932 married Katherine, daughter of Colonel H. W. Man of the RAOC, who persuaded him that there were better prospects in the expanding RAOC than in the Infantry. "B. D." transferred in 1935, and was immediately sent to join the Saar Plebiscite Force.

Small in stature and slightly built, he had, nevertheless, a commanding presence and strength of personality. He often looked stern, and he could be so when occasion demanded, but as a devout Christian he was kind, good humoured and guileless, never disparaging anyone.

In 1939 he was commanding the RAOC detachment in Bermuda. He was posted home at the outbreak of war for more active employment, and to his surprise was relieved by his father-in-law, who had been recalled from retirement. He was even more surprised to be sent to Australia.

lia in 1941 to help with the expansion of the RAAOC. He was closely involved in the planning of the Papua/New Guinea campaign, and became one of the ordnance officers at Port Moresby, supplying the Australian troops as they forced the Japanese back along the Kokoda trail through the Owen Stanley range.

Perhaps his most challenging task after the war was command of the vast, sprawling Base Ordnance Depot at Tel-el-Kebir in the desert 60 miles from Cairo. Within its wired and mined 17-mile perimeter were massive quantities of stores and equipment left over from the war, making it an attractive target for marauding Egyptian gangs, who persistently tried to break in. Political relations between Britain and Egypt were so strained at the time that his officers and men, together with their families, were forced to live under primitive conditions within a defended compound.

Subsequently he held a series of challenging ordnance appointments: Senior Ordnance Officer in GHQ Middle East; of Northern Command; of the Vehicle Organisation at Chilwell; and of the Base Depot at Didcot. His last appointment in the Army was Inspector of the RAOC as a major-general. When he retired from the Army in 1960 he tried his hand at management consultancy, but decided to turn back to his favourite school subjects: classics and divinity. For many years he taught both at Millbrook House Preparatory School where he became known as "Domine". He also became a pillar of village life at Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire, where he had lived for his last 34 years.

His dynamic wife, Katherine, died in 1986. Their son and two daughters survive him.

John Benn

JOHN Meriton Benn, CB, the first ombudsman for Northern Ireland, died aged 84.

He was appointed the first Northern Ireland commissioner for complaints in 1969 and, on the retirement of Sir Edmund Compton in 1972, became Northern Ireland parliamentary commissioner for administration. He was the first man to hold both offices and was therefore the first Northern Ireland ombudsman.

Benn, who was born in Burnley, died well at Christ's College, Cambridge (scholar

modern languages trips, honours French and German). After teaching at Exeter School he spent a year lecturing at Halle University in Germany before the second world war. In 1935 he moved to Northern Ireland as an inspector of schools and then joined the Ministry of Education, where, in 1964, he became permanent secretary.

On retirement in 1973 he was appointed to be a senator at the Queen's University of Belfast where in 1979 he became pro-chancellor and then senior pro-chancellor, an office he held until almost his 80th year.



ROY MARSHALL

Roy Edwin Marshall, West Indian test cricketer, Hampshire captain and opening batsman, died of cancer in a Taunton hospice on October 27 aged 62. He was born in St Thomas, Barbados on April 25, 1930.

ROY Marshall, a bespectacled player of exceptional and unorthodox flair, was one of the last white men to play for West Indies. He was chosen for four Test matches before he decided to emigrate to England in 1953. He joined Hampshire as a professional and swiftly forged a reputation as a forceful opening batsman, who always believed in taking the attack to the opposition. He perfected one extraordinary shot, an uprush late cut with which he would clear the head of the fielder on the third man boundary. Yet he was not a powerfully-built man — though a six-footer he never scaled more than 11 stone during his playing career — and such a stroke owed far more to timing than it did to mere muscle.

Marshall was born and

grew up in Barbados, where his father ran a sugar plantation. No island of comparable size has nurtured so many first class cricketers and when he was invited to play for Barbados when only 15 there was every indication he would soon be numbered among them. Unable to move his feet properly at the crease owing to nerves, he made only two runs and for a while rejoined his friends from Lodge School among the crowd.

Three years later he returned to the side and began with innings of 149, 110 and 57 in two matches against Trinidad. After making 191 against British Guiana he was selected for West Indies tour of England in 1950, at the age of 20. Although he did not play in any of the Tests, Marshall scored 1,117 runs at an average of 39.89. Against Hampshire at Southampton he made 135, an innings regarded as one of the finest seen on the ground. It was to have considerable significance.

In 1951 Marshall played for Lowerhouse in the Lancashire League before touring Australia and New Zealand

that winter. He showed that it was possible to take on Ray Lindwall, the great Australian fast bowler, and after West Indies had lost the first two Tests he played a significant part in enabling them to win the third against Australia. He put on 72 for the first wicket in the second innings with Jeffrey Stollmeyer, in spite of needing a runner, and this proved to be the best opening partnership of the series. Nonetheless, the modest aggregate of 143 runs in his seven Test innings on this tour, with a top score of 30, scarcely reflected his true ability.

He did not play Test cricket again. He fulfilled his contract with Lowerhouse and the following summer, 1953, began a two-year qualifying period with Hampshire. He was able to play against the Australian touring side, making 71 in 85 minutes on "a brute of a pitch" (Wisden's words) at Southampton. It was the start of a notable career with his county, which he was later to captain from 1966 to 1970. In his first full season, 1955, he made 2,115 runs, almost invariably

scoring from the very first ball. Other than his late cutting, his most prolific scoring shots were square of the wicket, be they to off or leg side. He brought adventure to Hampshire's cricket, making, in all his first class matches, 35,725 runs in 1,053 innings at an average of 35.94.

Roy Marshall retired in 1971, when he had just turned 40 and played some minor counties cricket before moving to the West Country. He bought a pub in Taunton and became chairman of Somerset's cricket committee in 1987. However he contracted skin cancer which cost him his right eye, and he had to stand down last year.

He never lost his sentimental regard for the Caribbean. Shortly before his death he attributed his zest for attacking strokeplay to his upbringing in sunshine which hardened the pitches. On the occasions when he returned to Barbados he was saddened to see West Indians having to pay for some of the sports facilities he had once enjoyed free. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, and three daughters.

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## Classic case of lost profits

*Price new in 1970. \* prices adjusted for today's rate. Forecasts apply only to cars in excellent condition.*

**KEVIN EASON**

However, the impounding of a car in addition to fines or a jail sentence will be seen as draconian by motorists. The Automobile Association says: "This whole system must be seen to be fair otherwise there will be problems. Strict guidelines on why the car is being confiscated must be laid down for the benefit of magistrates."

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Number of children	Number of children under 18 years old
0	0
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10	10

**Continental**  
German engineering  
where you need it most on a car.

155







## Major defies Euro-rebels

John Major prepared for a showdown with his Euro-rebels last night, telling Conservative MPs that he was not prepared to "rat" on Maastricht and urging them to end their squabbling over Europe. The prime minister's plea came after he had resolved to demand support for the treaty in the Commons next week, rather than avoid confrontation with an innocuous technical motion.

Page 1, 17

## Lamont goes for economic growth

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, confirmed in his Mansion House speech last night the U-turn in government economic policy. He said the government's economic goal had "never been simply to defeat inflation". Now there was a chance to "give greater weight to an early resumption of growth".

Page 1

## Family divorce

A 14-year-old Surrey girl has obtained a court order allowing her effectively to "divorce" her parents and move out of the family home. It is thought to be the first case of its kind in Britain.

Page 3

## Jaguar pay deal

Four thousand staff at Jaguar accepted a 4 per cent wage rise to maintain their place as the best paid car workers despite company losses of more than £176 million this year. Assembly line workers will get an average of £285.10p a week.

Page 6

## Church crossroads

The debate on women priests at next month's General Synod will hinge on the power of speakers on the day, says the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Ven David Silks, leading opposition to women's ordination. He will argue that the church needs a broader consensus before it abandons 2,000 years of tradition and is in danger of splitting.

Page 6

## Drugs behind bars

Drug seizures in jails represent only the tip of an iceberg of drug abuse by prisoners that the Home Office is unwilling to acknowledge, the chief inspector of prisons said. In almost all closed establishments, pressure was put on prisoners to smuggle in drugs during visits.

Page 8

## Heart threat

Young women who take tranquillisers or anti-depressants

## Picking holes in the Mr Ozone layer

The environmental-friendly image of Bill Clinton's running mate, Al Gore, is under fire. *The Washington Times* has uncovered a malodorous dump on the Gore farm in Tennessee, "filled with pesticide containers, aerosol cans, old tyres, used filters filled with waste oil, and unrecycled cans and bottles".

Page 12

appear to have a 17 times greater chance of dying of a heart attack. The finding emerged in the course of an investigation at Oxford University of fatal heart attacks in women between 16 and 39.

## Face-lift award

A business park in Newcastle upon Tyne, recently built on what was a derelict and contaminated 60-acre site, is named today as the joint winner of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' annual environmental awards competition.

Page 9

## Uranium plot

German police have broken up a ring suspected of trying to smuggle large amounts of uranium and 30 tanks, believed from former Soviet republics, into the Yugoslav war zone.

Page 11

## Battle of the gap

As new polls showed only a slight closing of the gap in the presidential race, Bill Clinton bitterly attacked his opponents' "shameless" campaign and President Bush grabbed every opportunity to talk up his chances of pulling off an upset victory next Tuesday.

Page 12

## Patten offer

Chris Patten, governor of Hong Kong, said he was ready to go on talking with Chinese officials on expanding democracy in the colony. What the people of the territory wanted was rational discussion, and not threats or rhetoric.

Page 13



Seeing's not believing: a fake of van Gogh's *Café de Nuit*, on display at an exhibition of forgeries which opened in Rome yesterday

**PK stop:** Privatisation of British Coal is to be postponed while the government's review of the energy market goes ahead, and suspicions are mounting in the City that it will be shelved altogether.

Page 24

## ICI slide

The City is questioning ICI's ability to hold its final dividend after its worst quarterly sales and profits since 1986. Shares tumbled 14p to £10.36.

Page 23

## Hovis surprise

Tomkins, the Greg Hinchings conglomerate, wrong-footed its rival, Hanson, by making a £925 million agreed cash offer for Ranks Hovis McDougall, makers of Hovis bread, Mr Kipling cakes and Bisto gravy.

Pages 23, 27

## Markets

The pound was steady as foreign exchange markets awaited the Chancellor's Mansion House speech. In London, it closed at DM2.4191, down 1.71 pence, and at \$1.5755, down 0.15c. After a bright start, shares were hit by ICI gloom and the FT-SE 100 index ended down 8.1 at 2,642.3.

Page 23

## Tennis

Line judges in grand-slam tennis tournaments could soon be replaced by a machine. An electronic system, first tried at the US Open, is to be installed on the three show courts for the Australian Open next January.

Page 44

## Yachting

A storm is brewing over the 1996 Olympic yachting regatta venue after reports that the seas off Savannah, Georgia, are virtually windless and that it takes six hours to get to the course.

Page 42

**Classic mistakes:** Thousands of motorists laid out money for classic cars thinking that they would be a good investment — but then came the recession and prices went into freefall. Kevin Eason examines the dilemma of the collectors who now find themselves caught in a nasty kind of crash.

Page 20

## Pause for laughter

Rob Newman and David Baddiel, stars of the side-splitting *The Mary Whitehouse Experience*, have been described as the Monty Python of the Nineties. Caitlin Moran talks to two young comics with a rock star following.

Page 14

## Prize entries

The £20,000 Turner Prize is the richest art prize in Britain. Richard Cork assesses the four shortlisted artists for this year, whose efforts are on show at the Tate from next Wednesday. Winner known November 24.

Page 37

## Theatre

David Leveaux is directing Harold Pinter in Pinter's *No Man's Land* at the Almeida. What is it like to direct a playwright in his own work?

Page 39

## Dance

John Percival meets Jonathan Burrows, former Royal Ballet soloist, whose own choreography is increasingly distant from conventional ballet and danceworks. Ballet Teatro Español (Bamenco) at Sadler's Wells.

Page 39

**Golden oldies:** Vintage episodes of Britain's best comedies, soaps and dramas will be available to owners of Astra satellite dishes and to cable subscribers from this Sunday, with the launch of UK Gold. Melinda Wittstock asks if there is really room in this day and age for a channel which is offering nothing but repeats.

Page 15

## Empire of the shadows

Representatives of Japan's untouchables will take to the streets in protest against what they see as their continuing oppression at the bottom of a conservative society. Joanna Pitman examines a nation's three million guilty secrets.

Page 15



Actress Susan Sarandon marched in a torchlight parade of New York women to a pro-Clinton rally, chanting pro-choice and anti-Bush slogans.

Page 12



Ruth Riddick, whose Dublin counselling service was awarded £195,000 by European judges who overruled an Irish ban on abortion information.

Page 9



Janet Gardner, 52, sent to jail for five years last November for the manslaughter of her brutal ex-boyfriend, has been freed by the Appeal Court.

Page 5

## Tonight's choice

A recording of the Earl's Court celebration of HM's 40 years on the throne occupies the early evening (BBC 1). Stills from it will surely turn up on *Have I Got News For You* (BBC 2). Not as funny as it used to be? Allegedly... Listings 43

## Lines of fault

Norman Lamont will probably not continue as Chancellor much longer. The other people involved in the crucial decisions must also be made to accept responsibility.

Page 17

## Out of Denmark

John Major has chosen his weapon for next week's duel. His decision to take his backbench rebels head on with a "substantive" motion on Maastricht has the merit of appearing more courageous than resort to a procedural motion, while winning him Liberal support to offset the larger number of Tory rebels.

Page 17

## A FAILED CAMPAIGN

Edward Gorman and George Brock: Twenty-three years after it revived its campaign of violence, the IRA resembles a long-distance swimmer attempting to cross an ocean of indifference. Its staying power cannot be denied, but it is no nearer its goal of breaking Britain's connection with Ireland.

Page 16

## LIES DAMNED LIES

Simon Jenkins: This week not one but two sets of crime figures emerged from the Home Office. It is therefore time to put the cracked record back on the turntable. I repeat, these figures are rubbish. They mean nothing. They are devoid of sense. They should not be collected.

Page 16

## Reader's review

Review of energy policy, plans to reorganise London's hospitals, legal aid and language teaching.

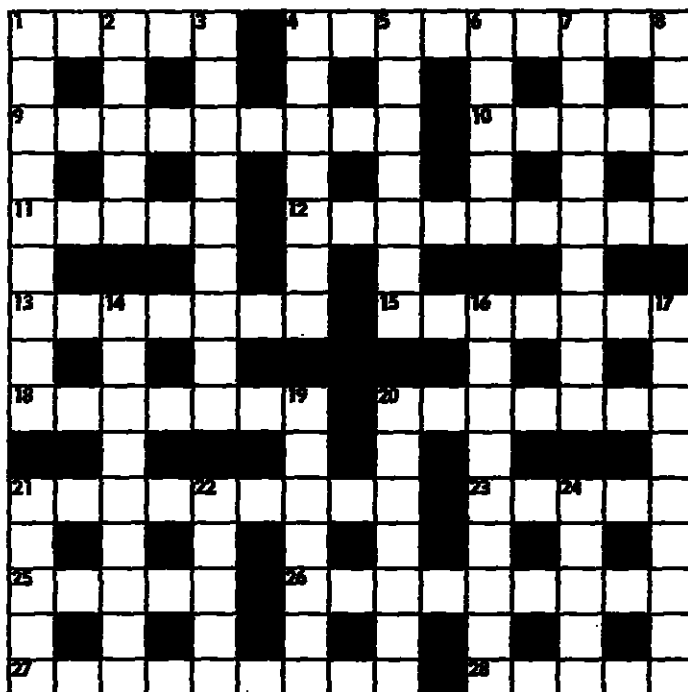
Page 17

## Dr Garreta

Jailed former head of the French blood transfusion service did no more than apply the precepts being followed by the government apparatus. Politicians and particularly the governing have become privileged spectators of their own public acts. Their attitude does not define the Socialist government but it has become so identified with its ways that it has come to caricature the reign which is coming to an end.

Page 17

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,063



- ACROSS**
- Hard battle that's played out on board (5).
  - Capital return on country music (9).
  - Plant outside mine's beginning to produce metal (9).
  - Haven of peace and love in the existing situation (5).
  - Legal defects in strong-sounding legislation (5).
  - Lies a flower? Said to lift a little one (4-5).
  - Can't evidence in one new Conservative policy (7).
  - Improves as regards performance — course is ready to begin (5-2).
  - In which some soldiers stand? (7).
  - Player's a cheat (7).
  - Leaves without effort (5,4).
  - Prepare again for battle behind military leader (5).
- DOWN**
- Damn unable to stop flow of water (5).
  - Bird I included in front of book about auk (9).
  - A rent isn't collected immediately (9).
  - Singer's second lowest note in audition (5).
  - One aims for the top with powerful sort of rifle (4-5).
  - Pot runs into pub endlessly (5).
  - Water a mother pig (5,4).
  - Bankruptcy for computer without a single pound (7).
  - Divine female ordered Meissen pieces (7).
  - Confessed — audibly? Just so (5).
  - Girl's service record brings permission to leave (9).
  - Chemically analyse old copper, for example (5).
  - Use caution after one's abandoned reorganization of a person's cover (9).
  - Secret scheme — not the main story (9).
  - Border's safe without ruler having to turn up (9).
  - Considered, nevertheless, in every detail? (7).
  - One who's very keen to get first in Cruik? That's right (7).
  - One speaks this in parts of the East, does one? (5).
  - Haggard's writing a book set in part of Arabia (5).
  - The management's broad-minded at heart (5).

## Solution to Puzzle No 19,062

BRIDEWELL PLUMS  
K N L K O U P U  
CONTINENTAL  
K N E K L H L  
HORSE ROUTINE  
A N I P G P  
T R A C T I O N  
E L S R P S L I  
RULE OUTTHRES  
E U M A T I O N  
G L A T E R A T I O N  
L U O D E S  
C O I T T E N N E S S E

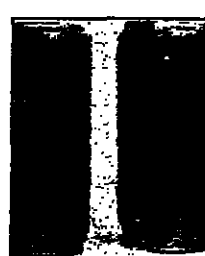
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| Scotland                    | 707 |
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| North East of England       | 761 |
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| South of England            | 765 |
| Wales & South Wales         | 766 |
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| West Midlands & South Wales | 769 |
| South East of England       | 770 |
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| Scotland                    | 797 |
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| West Midlands & South Wales | 799 |
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- For the latest AA traffic and road works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0830 401 followed by the appropriate code, roadworks.**
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What hope for the privatisation of British Coal?



## ARTS 37-39

The Turner Prize: does the best artist always win?



## SPORT 40-44

At last: athletics fetes the man who inspired Abrahams

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### THREATENED



Neither Bill Clinton nor Ross Perot would approve British Airways' proposed alliance with USAir if elected as the next American president  
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### GOING DOWN

Brisk trade in shares in Ranks Hovis McDougall failed to inspire a nervous stock market  
Page 26

### TOMORROW



Eugene Anderson took on more than he had bargained for when he emerged at the helm of troubled Perrard International, Angela Mackay reports

US dollar 1.5715 (-0.0075)  
German mark 2.4170 (-0.0147)  
Exchange index 78.6 (-0.4)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share 1948.7 (-7.8)  
FT-SE 100 2642.3 (-8.1)  
New York Dow Jones 3250.86 (-0.54)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 16837.71 (-130.70)

London Bank Base: 8%  
3-month interbank: 7.75%  
3-month official bill: 9.5-9.75%  
US: Prime Rate: 6%  
Federal Funds: 3 1/8%  
3-month Treasury bill: 2.94-2.95%  
30-year bonds: 6 3/4-6 7/8%

London: S: \$1.5790  
C: DM2.4186  
S: SF21.1503  
C: FF16.2020  
S: Yen188.22  
C: Index 78.6  
ECL: 60.812750  
C: ECU1.230380  
New York: S: \$1.5700  
C: DM1.5400  
S: SF21.3744  
C: FF16.2145  
S: Yen188.34  
C: Index 78.6  
ECL: 60.812750  
C: ECU1.230380  
London Forex market close

London Flights: AM \$339.50 PM \$339.50  
Close \$339.50-340.10  
\$216.00-216.50  
New York: S: \$340.05-340.55

Brent (Nov) \$19.50/bbl (\$19.80)

RPT: 133.4 September (1987-100)  
\* Denotes midday trading price

## Tomkins makes surprise £925m offer for RHM

By ANGELA MACKAY

TOMKINS, the industrial conglomerate run by Greg Hutchings, surprised the market and wrongfooted its larger rival, Hanson, by making a £925 million cash offer for Ranks Hovis McDougall, makers of Hovis bread, Mr Kipling cakes and Bisto gravy.

Mr Hutchings, who has been stalking RHM for a year, approached Stanley Metcalfe, the food group's chairman, in August and was encouraged to come back with more detailed plans last month. Negotiations were interrupted, however, by Hanson's £780 million hostile bid.

Tomkins is offering RHM shareholders three options: 2.29 new Tomkins shares and 520p in cash for every four shares in RHM; 260p cash for each RHM share or an all-share offer of 0.5725 shares in Tomkins for every 130p of the cash alternative.

At the same time, Tomkins, with businesses spanning Smith & Wesson handguns, lawnmowers, bicycles and fluid control systems, announced a one for two rights issue at 200p a share to raise £653 million, payable in two instalments. The rights issue is underwritten by Barclays de Zoete Wedd and the group will raise £384 million, whatever the outcome of the offer.

RHM's shareholders will also collect a second interim dividend of 9.54p — an entitlement not included under

### Hanson's bid for RHM was topped by Tomkins, led by the Hanson-trained Greg Hutchings

Hanson's 220p a share offer — which in effect gives those opting for the all-cash offer almost 270p a share.

The market, however, cut the value of the cash and shares offer from 267.5p to 251p, for Tomkins's shares had dropped by 49p to 212p by the end of the day. RHM shares closed at 273p after 38 million shares changed hands. BZW was believed to have bought about 1.5 per cent of RHM yesterday on behalf of Tomkins, which until then had only 14,000 RHM shares.

Lord Hanson, chairman of the Anglo-American conglomerate, said he was considering his company's position. He was "very surprised" that the board of RHM has not been prepared to have discussions with Hanson with a view to establishing, in the interests of RHM shareholders, whether we might be prepared to offer greater value.

The chairman also said he was "astonished" that RHM's board could have announced a "costly three-way demerger" only two weeks ago, which Mr Metcalfe described as "the right path for us to take". Lord Hanson said this inconsis-

tency was incomprehensible and advised RHM shareholders to take no action for the time being.

RHM's advisers, Morgan Grenfell, said yesterday the purpose of the demerger proposal had been to draw attention to RHM's real value, and to encourage shareholders to pause before selling to Hanson "on the cheap".

Analysts said Tomkins needed to convince the market that a bid for a food group was a logical move for what is traditionally viewed as an engineering company. Mr Hutchings countered that the type of product was not relevant. RHM was a manufacturing company that needed strategic management, reorganisation and rationalisation.

Mr Hutchings said he would never buy a company for tax reasons, but RHM's UK profit stream would help to lighten Tomkins's advanced corporation tax burden. If the takeover is successful, Tomkins's turnover would be more evenly distributed between America and Britain.

Mr Hutchings said his track record was for management rather than quick profit through disposals, but he did not rule out sales of RHM assets.

Tomkins forecasts a 12 per cent dividend increase to 6.35p for the year to May 1, 1993, while RHM forecast a sharp decline in profits from £150.2 million to £92 million for the year to September 5.

## Protégé who goes for his mentor

By MARTIN WALLER

GREG Hutchings is the classic brash 1980s entrepreneur. What sets him aside from the rest of the breed is his failure to come messily to grief in the cash-strained 1990s.

Survival is down to his shrewd selection of deals and tight control over money. Tomkins has made some big moves, but not many.

In his shrewdness he is similar to his mentor, Lord Hanson, although Tomkins has largely eschewed the hostile takeover. Mr Hutchings' first big break, in the late 1970s, was at Hanson, the business he is now fighting over ownership of RHM.

Legend has it that he brushed talcum powder into his hair ahead of the job interview with Hanson to appear older. Tomkins is a mainly engineering-based group making goods such as lawnmowers, valves, bicycles and guns. It does own one household name — Smith & Wesson.

Little known outside the City, he was thrown into the headlines this summer amid the fuss over executives' salaries when his pay rose more than 50 per cent to just short of £1 million. His response was typical: he said his performance was sufficiently outstanding to warrant it.

Tempos, page 26



Brash survivor: Greg Hutchings, chief executive of Tomkins

## Heron control flies out of Ronson's hands

By JONATHAN PERRY

GERALD Ronson is to lose control of Heron International, the property to petrol stations group he built up over 25 years, under the terms of a rescue debt restructuring package presented to bankers and bondholders yesterday.

If the proposal is accepted, Mr Ronson, his family and charitable foundations — the sole shareholders — will see their holdings massively diluted by a £400 million conversion of debt into equity. Under the terms of the restructuring, creditors will own 95 per cent of Heron International, the holding company, leaving existing shareholders with 5 per cent. A

performance-related package allows management to take a 15 per cent stake if the outstanding debt is repaid in full on time. Heron owes more than £1.45 billion and had a negative net worth of £225 million at end-March, due to the slump in property values. The banks could have placed Heron in receivership but backed Mr Ronson to reach the best prices for the parts of his business empire.

Mr Ronson will step down as chairman and three new non-executive directors, including a non-executive chairman, will be appointed. Mr Ronson will remain as chief executive, and the rest of the executive directors will keep their jobs.

Banking sources said last night that Heron's finances have continued to deteriorate in the last two months due to the continuing fall in property prices and the fall in sterling. Heron may now have a negative value of more than £400 million. The group will be drastically shrunken down to help pay off some debt. It is proposed that Heron Suzuki, a motor dealer, and the petrol stations operations will be sold to a group of investors led by Mr Ronson. That will leave the Heron Motor Group, Heron Distribution and Heron Homes still owned by Heron International. The banks expect Heron to raise at least £600 million from asset sales by 1997 to give the company the

chance of a further refinancing. If the group does not achieve the sale prices it hopes, insolvency could follow.

Senior banking sources revealed last night that they were forced to offer the businesses to Mr Ronson after Suzuki threatened to withdraw its franchise due to Heron's debt problems. Mr Ronson is talking to institutional investors and the disposal is expected to raise up to £55 million.

The restructuring package is to be put to creditor banks and, once approved, will be distributed to bondholders "early in the new year".

Rise and fall, page 27  
Comcast, page 27

## ICI sales fall and profits are halved

By COLIN CAMPBELL

THE City is questioning ICI's ability to hold its final dividend after the group reported its worst quarterly sales and profits since 1986.

Sir Denis Henderson, chairman, said pre-tax profits in the three months ended September fell from £196 million to £93 million on sales that were nearly 10 per cent lower at £2.77 billion. The company's 1992 year ends on December 31. Shares yesterday fell 14p to £10.36.

Demand was particularly poor and prices came under pressure in the third quarter. Sir Denis compounded market disappointment with the results, saying: "There is little expectation of improvement in trading conditions in the near term." He blamed the worldwide recession and the effect of an overvalued pound for the group's setback, though he believes sterling's devaluation should help in overseas markets.

"Our priorities remain to contain costs and to maintain a strong balance sheet as restructuring activities continue apace," Sir Denis said.

In July, ICI announced it was considering the feasibility of splitting the group into two separate parts — bioscience and the rest. The back of the donkey work on demerger had been broken, ICI said yesterday, although a final decision on a demerger would be taken in February.

The poor September quarterly results leaves ICI with total sales at £8.91 billion for the first nine months of 1992, compared with £9.44 million in the comparable 1991 period, and with pre-tax profits of £513 million (£703 million).

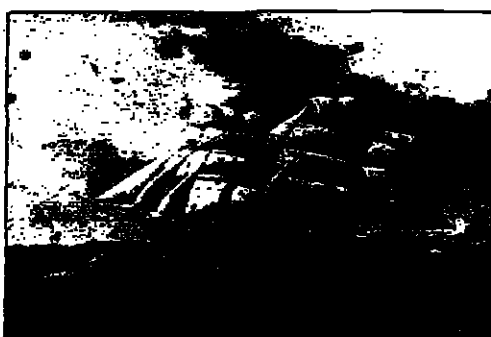
The 1992 interim dividend was held at 21p a share, though analysts are now increasingly questioning the prospects for a maintained 1992 final payment.

Tempos, page 26

## Spanking along on the oggin.

For those of us whose knowledge of seafaring argot is less than extensive, our headline roughly translates as 'tearing through the waves'.

Nautical paintings are currently selling very impressively at auction. If you have any that you would like to include in our next sale of Victorian pictures, please contact us on the number opposite. (Only spank along, or you'll miss the boat.)



William Clark, *The Clipper, John R. Worcester*, oil on canvas. Sold recently at Sotheby's for £20,350.

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS SALE: 15TH NOVEMBER.

Our next sale of Victorian pictures of all kinds will take place in London on 3rd February; if you have any paintings which you would like to include in this sale, please contact Richard Southgate on (071) 408 5386 as soon as possible.

THE WORLD'S LEADING FINE ART AUCTION HOUSE  
**SOTHEBY'S**  
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## Easy choices are not part of life outside the ERM

MUCH water has flowed under the bridge since we met here last year. And the rebuilding of the credibility of our counter-inflationary policy is still underway. The suspension of membership of the exchange-rate mechanism was clearly a major disturbance. It was a shock; it was a shock to confidence; and it was a shock to a framework for monetary policy which had become easily understood. It was not something we had sought.

But towards the end, our membership of the ERM forced us to adopt an unbalanced mix between monetary and fiscal policy, a mix dictated by German unification and one unsuited to the rest of Europe, and, some are saying, to Germany. The challenge facing the UK now is to pursue a more balanced domestic policy stance without undermining the medium-term commitment to stable prices.

We must not be misled into thinking that being outside the ERM gives us easy choices. There is genuine uncertainty about the state of the world economy and of our domestic economy. On the one hand, there have been in this country sharp reductions in business and consumer confidence, further declines in house prices, and large falls in manufacturing employment. On the other hand, retail sales have picked up and the effects of the recent easing of monetary policy are still to be seen.

In some respects, an accurate qualitative description of the process affecting the UK economy is debt deflation — with the burden of debt leading to disposals of assets, and the resulting fall in asset prices leading to even higher capital gearing ratios. But the quantitative significance of this is hard to assess — we have no experience of similar circumstances in the post-war period.

The risk of a further world downturn resulting from debt deflation is real. But we should not forget that domestic demand in real terms has risen over the past year.

The acceptability of any further overall easing in policy rests critically on how alert we will be to new information about the economy, and how willing to tighten monetary policy as soon as there is evidence that demand is rising sufficiently rapidly to endanger our long-run goal of price stability. It is imperative that the authorities are not perceived as taking their eye off their counter-inflationary duty. It is precisely because there is no long-run trade-off between inflation and output

that we must retain a firm counter-inflationary policy. The necessity to be alert to changes in the economic situation is matched by the need for a further ingredient in our monetary policy — that of openness. I greatly welcome this initiative, which the Chancellor has amplified this evening, including his invitation to the Bank to publish a quarterly report on inflation. This will assess the progress made in achieving the inflation objective the Chancellor has set and the prospects for inflation in the future.

I have spoken tonight about three important qualities of a successful monetary policy — alertness, firmness, and openness. These attributes are no less relevant to our other principal responsibility — supervisory policy. Alertness, in particular, is something which the Bank has had cause to address following the Bingham Report on the BCCI affair. The criticisms of lack of vigour in pursuing signals of possible fraud have been well publicised, as I trust has our response involving establishing a special investigations unit and a legal unit.

In general, our supervisors have been very successful in maintaining financial stability and in addressing problems when depositors' interests are threatened. There have been

just eight liquidations and six administrations since 1986. This reflects success in spotting and remedying problems before they come to a head. Over the past six years, in some 35 cases, banks have, at the Bank of England's instigation, successfully implemented remedial programmes. This was precisely the approach taken by the Bank to BCCI when major problems emerged at the beginning of 1990: a remedial programme, implemented by controlling shareholders. It was blown out of the water by the revelations of pervasive fraud in the section 41 report. But that does not mean the chosen strategy was wrong. Bingham does not say it was wrong.

If we had closed the bank during 1990 when, on the information available to us, there seemed every prospect of a successful remedy, I am in absolutely no doubt that we would have been pilloried from every corner for causing unnecessary loss to depositors. It is said that we are timid in the use of our powers. I do not accept that. Since 1986, apart from the 35 cases of successful remedial action to which I have referred, there have been 17 occasions on which we have used our revocation powers, and 28 acts of restriction. And I totally reject the offensive and wholly unfounded allegations, made here and abroad, that the Bank was somehow party to a cover-up, or colluded with BCCI, or even that our officials took bribes.

But we do have lessons to learn and learn them we will: there is a major strengthening of our team and our structures; we will be more alert to signs of possible criminality.



Alertness will be sharpened: Robin Leigh-Pemberton said his team will be stronger

## London is still the world's top financial centre

Sir Brian Jenkins, the Lord Mayor of London, spoke of the City's international reputation, its respected commercial law and approach to regulation, and the need to continue its promotion

first three years. As I have tried to promote the City, I have come to observe and learn better the characteristics of London. Geography, history, experience, English commercial law and our approach to regulation have all played a part. It is simply the greatest international financial centre in the world.

As regards transport, I have recently written to the prime minister saying how important to our ongoing success are the various London-based projects, in particular, Cross-

Rail. As regards regulation, we have heard a good deal about this recently, not least in the context of Lord Justice Bingham's report on BCCI. Attention has focused on particular criticisms made in relation to a uniquely difficult case over a 20-year period. But that should not obscure his general assessment that the Bank of England's supervision has served the community well. I agree with that; and that is what I hear from banks all round the world. Indeed, they say it is an

important reason for them being here. And the same goes for our securities and insurance regulation, where, similarly, we have a market-led approach, which is crucial.

Finally, on the location of the European Central Bank. We have worked hard to promote London's case. We believe that case is irrefutable. London is and will, whatever happens, remain Europe's primary international financial centre.

We believe that the turmoil in the markets of recent weeks strengthens rather than weakens that argument. Europe's monetary institutions must be close to the markets. They cannot act in isolation. And the precise day-to-day rela-

## Lloyd's emphasises need for level playing field in government support

FOR those of us in the insurance business, it has been difficult to manage our affairs against a background of natural disasters, which cannot be prevented. What we can do is to share the burden or risk, by spreading it through the mechanism of insurance.

This City is the birthplace of modern insurance. The many companies that practise insurance here, and Lloyd's underwriters have made it quite simply the greatest insurance centre in the world. That is why I see the difficulties of the recent past as providing tremendous opportunities for those insurers who hold their nerve and are prepared to change their ways. We at Lloyd's are going through a very profound programme of reform and adaptation: we shall come through it stronger, more efficient and better placed to meet the challenges of this decade.

As we implement this process of change we shall keep a firm eye on three things: first, the need to preserve Lloyd's reputation as a centre of innovation and fair dealing; second, the strong links between Lloyd's and other institutions in the City of London; and third, the help we need to ensure we are competing on level terms with our competitors in continental Europe and elsewhere.

The flair of Lloyd's in the marine world gave rise to the Lloyd's Form of Salvage, which is now a world standard. This year, when well-publicised concerns arose about the security of pension funds, Lloyd's was first into the market with a new insurance product offering protection to pension fund holders against theft. We shall nurture this tradition of innovation. We are part of the City of

Peter Middleton, the chief executive, outlines three factors crucial to maintaining Lloyd's position as leader in the world insurance market while it implements reforms

London and during the past year I have had many occasions to be grateful for this. The Governor and his staff have been unfailingly helpful at this time of profound change for the Society of Lloyd's. The Lloyd's which emerges from our reform programme will never lose sight of its role in helping to promote the City of London. And that is why we have pledged a contribution to the Financial Law Panel.

But there is also a different type of support which Lloyd's needs. Many of you will be aware of the financial impact on the insurance industry of retrospective legislation on the environment, particularly in America. We ask that in framing any new legislation on environmental responsibilities, whether in the UK or the wider European Community, we avoid the sheer injustice of imposing liability retrospectively.

The second element of support we need is to be able to compete on equal terms with our competitors, particularly in Europe. It is not enough for Lloyd's to have a rich endowment in terms of talent and experience. We must compete with many others who are able to threaten the primacy of London because of the advantages their governments permit them. You will rightly say I am biased. Then let Dr Onno Ruding make the point for me. He is an international banker, formerly Dutch finance minister, who recently chaired an EC enquiry into the impact of national tax regimes on the location of businesses. He noted that the London market had the highest concentration of insurance and distribution expertise in the world, but not a similar degree of capital concentration. Why the imbalance?

I quote: "The London market's continental European competitors all have the ability to build up their own capital resources through tax-free catastrophe or equalisation reserves, as well as, in many cases, other advantages."

I have high hopes that our authorities will heed this analysis, and, to quote Dr Ruding again, he stresses "the overriding importance of a tax regime for reinsurers that would enable the London market to harness its own resources", as, for example, in Germany.

## Japan bank bad debt at £62bn

FROM JOANNA FITTMAN IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S 21 leading banks are burdened with 12,000 billion yen (£62 billion) in non-performing loans, according to figures leaked from the ministry of finance yesterday. Detailed figures will be announced today with bank earnings for the half year, but analysts judged the ministry's official bad debt total to be between one half to one fifth of the actual total.

Sumitomo Life insurance has estimated the banks' collective bad debt at ¥22,000 billion, while other analysts put the figure at more than ¥50,000 billion. Kleinwort Benson International believes that the total cost for bailing out all Japan's financial institutions, including insurance companies, could be far larger than the American cost of resolving its savings and loan crisis.

Yesterday's ministry of finance figures represent com-

bined outstanding bad loans to the 11 city banks, three long-term credit banks and seven trust banks. The ministry defines non-performing loans as those on which interest has not been paid for six months (compared with three months in America) and excludes the problem loans held by bank affiliates, many of which were lenders to property-related ventures during the boom of the late 1980s.

The vast majority of these unsightly assets represent loans to the still ailing real estate sector. The national average for land price indices fell 5 per cent last year, and prices are down 30 per cent in Tokyo and 40 per cent in Osaka from their peaks in the late 1980s. Bankruptcies in the real estate sector continue to loom, keeping confidence in the banking system in very short supply.

Earlier this month, the

banking sector, led by Tsuneo Wakai, chairman of the federation of bankers associations and chairman of Mitsubishi Bank, announced plans to create a self-managed bank-out scheme.

The sector proposes to form a private sector body that would buy real estate being held as collateral on bad loans, thereby relieving the dual role of relieving the burden of real estate-related non-performing loans and stimulating the moribund property market.

Japanese banks argue that while these non-performing loans are indeed a burden, their impact on balance sheets and on the banking system as a whole has been exaggerated. Nevertheless, the banks appear to be rushing to get the new organisation in place so that transfers can be effected before the close of the financial year next March.

## Northern business 'takes a pounding'

BY PAUL WILKINSON

The North, which has survived the recession better than other parts of the country, is beginning to feel the pinch, according to the latest quarterly survey of conditions in the region.

The situation is as bad as at the beginning of 1991 when the local economy hit its nadir, states the Business Survey North, produced by the Northern Development Company and the chambers of trade of Teesside and Tyne and Wear.

"The results of the survey came as a serious blow after six months in which the region had rallied well to recover from the first wave of recession," says the report, which covers Cumbria and the Northeast of England. "The modest post-election improvement has proved to be another false dawn. The expectation

among business people that a more stable political environment would foster economic recovery now appears, sadly, misplaced. It is clear from these results that the northern economy took a pounding in the third quarter and businesses are apprehensive about prospects, at least for the rest of the year.

"Interest rates are still the principal concern of businesses in the north, but there was a significant increase in the number of companies calling for a lower exchange rate. The number may have been higher but for the fact that many replies were received after sterling's suspension from the ERM."

The report showed that the steady growth in investment in plant and building went into reverse. Sales on the home market have dropped.

## BP secures North Sea future

BY OUR CITY STAFF

COST control, improved technology and co-operation between companies have secured a future for the North Sea's oilfields despite their maturity, a British Petroleum executive said.

Chris Gibson-Smith, responsible for exploration in Europe, told a meeting of the Institute of Petroleum's West of Scotland Branch that the UK North Sea was a classic example of an oil province in which the largest field had almost certainly been found, but where good business opportunities remained. BP looked forward to maintaining its UK output at 500,000

barrels of oil equivalent to the end of the century, he said.

UK North Sea oil and gas production averaged just over 2.8 million barrels of oil equivalent a day in 1991. Of this, BP was responsible for around 485,000 barrels a day, the company's figures show.

Mr Gibson-Smith said the cost of exploiting the North Sea oilfields, and the technical and physical demands imposed, were immense. Ageing infrastructure, declining field size, and increased safety and environmental pressures had added to the challenge.

"But there are now numerous examples of how previous-

ly uneconomic prospects have been transformed by new thinking, by radical engineering, and above all, by new ways of working between the parties involved," he said.

Rival oil companies today co-operate to tie the new, marginal oil developments into the North Sea's existing production infrastructure. This reduces costs and extends the lives of the installations serving declining fields. Mr Gibson-Smith said.

"The North Sea is a very good example of how a transformation in costs and productivity can secure the future of a mature oil province," he said.

## NEW INVESTMENT RATES FROM THE CHESHIRE

PREMIUM 100 Annual Interest % (Rate guaranteed until Jan 1993)				GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS C.A.R.*
£100,000+	10.75	8.04	-	10.75	7.88	-
£50,000+	10.50	7.88	-	10.50	7.50	-
£25,000+	10.25	7.50	-	-	-	-

FROM 30TH OCTOBER 1992				GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS C.A.R.*
PREMIUM 60 Annual Interest %	8.00	6.08	-	8.00	5.81	-
£100,000+	7.75	5.81	-	7.75	5.44	-
£50,000+	7.50	5.44	-	7.50	5.07	-
£25,000+	7.25	5.07	-	-	-	-

PREMIUM 60 INCOME Monthly Interest %				GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS C.A.R.*
£100,000+	6.45	4.35	-	6.45	4.16	-
£50,000+	6.25	4.16	-	6.25	3.99	-
£25,000+	6.05	3.99	-	6.05	3.82	-
£10,000+	5.85	3.82	-	5.85	3.65	-
£5,000+	5.65	3.65	-	5.65	3.48	-
£2,500+	5.45	3.48	-	5.45	3.31	-
£1,250+	5.25	3.31	-	5.25	3.14	-
£625+	5.05	3.14	-	5.05	2.97	-
£312+	4.85	2.97	-	4.85	2.80	-
£156+	4.65	2.80	-	4.65	2.63	-
£78+	4.45	2.63	-	4.45	2.46	-
£39+	4.25	2.46	-	4.25	2.29	-
£19.5+	4.05	2.29	-	4.05	2.12	-
£9.75+	3.85	2.12	-	3.85	1.95	-
£4.875+	3.65	1.95	-	3.65	1.78	-
£2.4375+	3.45	1.78	-	3.45	1.61	-
£1.21875+	3.25	1.61	-	3.25	1.44	-
£0.609375+	3.05	1.44	-	3.05	1.27	-
£0.3046875+	2.85	1.27	-	2.85	1.10	-
£0.15234375+	2.65	1.10	-	2.65	0.93	-
£0.076171875+	2.45	0.93	-	2.45	0.76	-
£0.0380859375+	2.25	0.76	-	2.25	0.59	-
£0.01904296875+	2.05	0.59	-	2.05	0.42	-
£0.009521484375+	1.85	0.42	-	1.85	0.25	-
£0.0047607421875+	1.65	0.25	-	1.65	0.08	-
£0.00238037109375+	1.45	0.08	-	1.45	-	-
£0.001190185546875+	1.25	-	-	1.25	-	-
£0.0005950927734375+	1.05	-	-	1.05	-	-
£0.00029754638671875+	0.85	-	-	0.85	-	-
£0.000148773193359375+	0.65	-	-	0.65	-	-
£0.0000743865966796875+	0.45	-	-	0.45	-	-
£0.00003719329833984375+	0.25	-	-	0.25	-	-
£0.000018596649169921875+	0.05	-	-	0.05	-	-

PREMIUM ACCESS Annual Interest %				GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS C.A.R.*
£100,000+	7.75	5.81	-	7.75	5.44	-
£50,000+	7.50	5.44	-	7.50	5.07	-
£25,000+	7.25	5.07	-	7.25	4.70	-
£10,000+	7.00	4.70	-	7.00	4.33	-
£5,000+	6.75	4.33	-	6.75	3.96	-
£2,500+	6.50	3.96	-	6.50	3.59	-
£1,250+	6.25	3.59	-	6.25	3.22	-
£625+	6.00	3.22	-	6.00	2.85	-
£312+	5.75	2.85	-	5.75	2.48	-
£156+	5.50	2.48	-	5.50	2.11	-
£78+	5.25	2.11	-	5.25	1.74	-
£39+	5.00	1.74	-	5.00	1.37	-
£19.5+	4.75	1.37	-	4.75	1.00	-
£9.75+	4.50	1.00	-	4.50	0.63	-
£4.875+	4.25	0.63	-	4.25	0.26	-
£2.4375+	4.00	0.26	-	4.00	-	-
£1.21875+	3.75	-	-	3.75	-	-
£0.609375+	3.50	-	-	3.50	-	-
£0.3046875+	3.25	-	-	3.25	-	-
£0.15234375+	3.00	-	-	3.00	-	-
£0.076171875+	2.75	-	-	2.75	-	-
£0.0380859375+	2.50	-	-	2.50	-	-
£0.01904296875+	2.25	-	-	2.25	-	-
£0.009521484375+	2.00	-	-	2.00	-	-
£0.0047607421875+	1.75	-	-	1.75	-	-
£0.00238037109375+	1.50	-	-	1.50	-	-
£0.001190185546875+	1.25	-	-	1.25	-	-
£0.0005950927734375+	1.00	-	-	1.00	-	-
£0.00029754638671875+	0.75	-	-	0.75	-	-
£0.000148773193359375+	0.50	-	-	0.50	-	-
£0.0000743865966796875+	0.25	-	-	0.25	-	-
£0.00003719329833984375+	0.00	-	-	0.00	-	-

CLOSED ISSUES				GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS C.A.R.*
SUPER-SENIOR PLUS	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
Annual Interest %	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£100,000+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£50,000+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£25,000+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£10,000+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£5,000+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£2,500+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£1,250+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£625+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£312+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£156+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£78+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£39+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£19.5+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£9.75+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£4.875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£2.4375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£1.21875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.609375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.3046875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.15234375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.076171875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0380859375+	8.5	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.01904296875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.009521484375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0047607421875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00238037109375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.001190185546875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0005950927734375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00029754638671875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000148773193359375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000743865966796875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00003719329833984375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000018596649169921875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000929832459109375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000464916229546875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000002324581147734375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000011622905738671875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000058114528693359375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000000290572643466796875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000001452863217333984375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000000072643160866796875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000000363215804333984375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000001816079021669921875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000000009080395108349609375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000000045401975541723046875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000000227009877708615234375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000000001135049388543076171875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000000005675246942715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000000028376234713576904296875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000000000141881173567884521484375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000000000709405867839422607421875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000000003547029339197113037109375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000000001773514669598556515546875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000000000008867573347992782577734375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000000000044337866739963912888671875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000000000002216893336998195644433984375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000000000011084466684990978222169921875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000000000055422333424954891110849609375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000000000002771116671247744555443076171875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000000000000138555833562387227772169921875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000000000006927791678119361388609375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000000000000034638958390596806943076171875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000000000000173194791952984034715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000000000000865973959764920173576904296875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000000000000432986979882460086843076171875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000000000000002164934899412300434215380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000000000000108246744970615021715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000000000000000541233724853075108576904296875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000000000000027061686242653755428843076171875+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000000000000000135308431213268777144215380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000000000000006765421560663438857215380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000000000000000033827107803317194285715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000000000000001691355390165859714285715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000000000000000084567769508292985714285715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000000000000000042283884754146494285714285715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000000000000000002114194237707324714285714285715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000000000000000105709711885366235714285714285715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000000000000000005285485594278311785714285714285715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000000000000000026427427971391589285714285714285715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000000000000000001321371398569579464285714285714285715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000000000000000000066068569928478973214285714285714285715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000000000000000003303428496423948660714285714285714285715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000000000000000000165171424821197433035714285714285714285715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.0000000000000000000082585712410871665176785714285714285714285715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.000000000000000000004129285620540383258839285714285714285714285715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00000000000000000000206464281027019162941964285714285714285714285715380859375+	8.50	6.36	-	8.50	6.09	-
£0.00						



# RHM battle knocks credibility all round

GREG Hutchings at Tomkins has a credibility problem to address as he does the rounds of City institutions over the next few weeks. Tomkins is a widely admired and well-managed manufacturing conglomerate, but its expertise has been bolted together bits of metal and its experience in bread is nil.

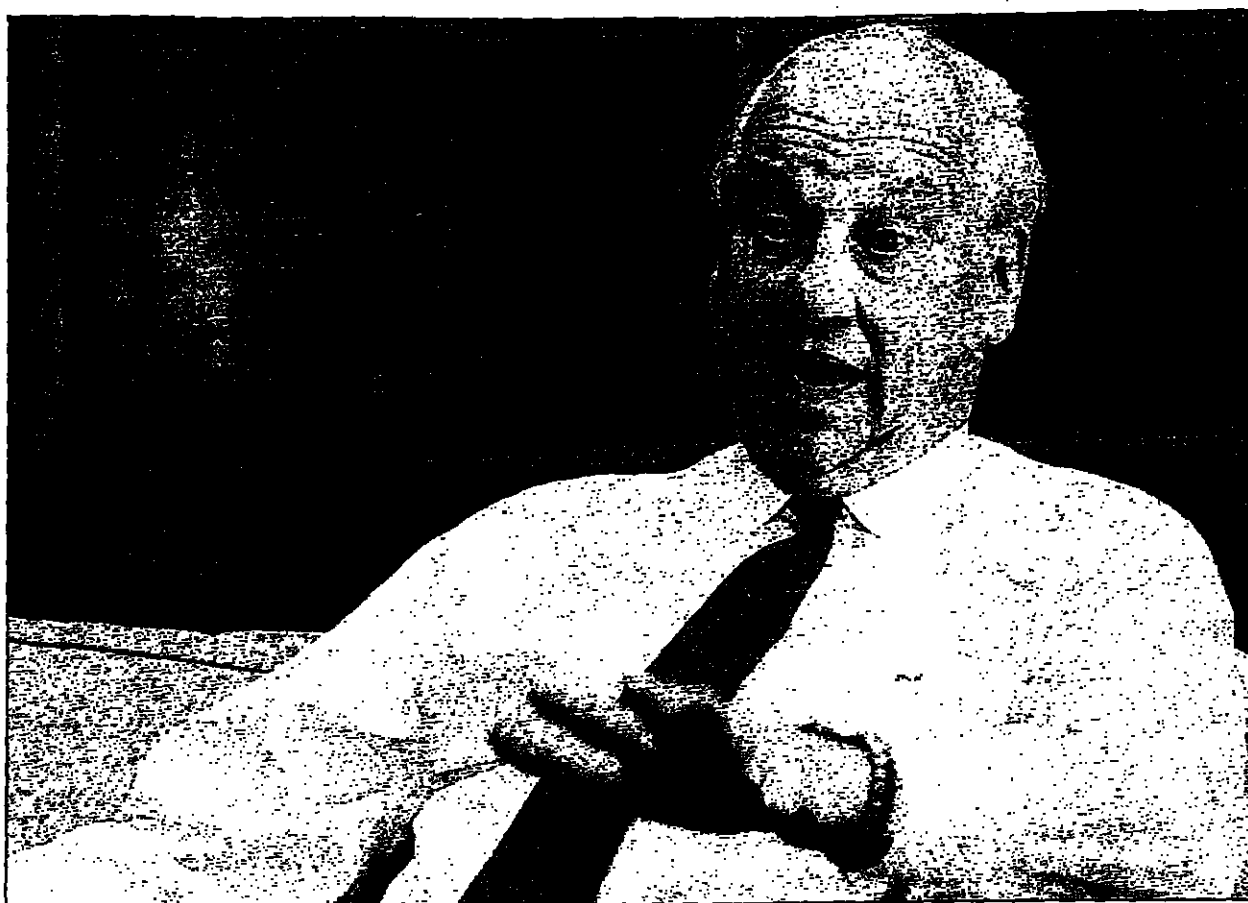
Mr Hutchings rightly insists manufacturing is manufacturing and the same skills and disciplines apply. True, but the performance of the Tomkins shares, off 49p at 219p and 28p below the theoretical ex-rights price, suggests more explaining is needed.

Left with precious little credibility is Stanley Metcalfe and his team at Ranks Hovis McDougall, although they can at least claim they wasted a good price for a business few would look at twice not many months ago.

RHM was galloping madly down the demerger route and not protesting too hard at analysts' break-up values of £3 a share and above until Tomkins appeared, now 269.54p, the cash-plus-dividend on the table is enough, apparently. Still, Mr Metcalfe can at least be said to have kept his options open.

Left with a big dent in their credibility are Lords Hanson and White. You can't win them all, but if Hanson, as widely expected, walks away, it will have lost two in a row. It might just be tempted to come back with more cash.

Tomkins' abrupt share price plunge leaves the cash-and-shares offer worth just 251p for each RHM share, although this will improve as and when the persuasive Mr Hutchings puts his message across.



Unhealthy results: Sir Denis yesterday announced the worst sales and pre-tax profit figures for ICI since 1986

Based on the cash-plus-dividend offer, Tomkins is paying a respectable 15 times historic earnings while taking the group out at the lowest ebb of its fortunes, brought down by the bread wars.

David Lang, food analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, believes the market will not improve until 1994-5, while other observers are even more gloomy. The rights issue price of £2 looks attractive, although

Tomkins shares will underperform at least in the short term if the bid goes through, and for RHM shareholders there is much to be said for the price available in the market. But those investors should not be too quick to cash in.

## ICI

OF ALL the weird and wonderful fertilizers and drugs

that ICI makes, there is none in its cupboard to cure the world's sick economies.

ICI shares have already suffered several shake-outs this year as the City readied itself for a third-quarter results, so yesterday's awful third-quarter results, announced by Sir Denis Henderson, chairman, only saw the shares 14p weaker at £10.36p. Their April peak was £13.81. The latest quarterly

report covering the three months to end-September revealed the worst sales and pre-tax profit figures since 1986.

For a host of reasons, third-quarter sales were nearly 10 per cent down at £2.77 billion, while third-quarter pre-tax profits were £103 million worse at £93 million.

The nine months' tally is £8.91 billion (£9.4 billion of sales, and £513 million (£703

million) of pre-tax profits. The blunt warning is that trading conditions cannot be expected to improve "in the near term", which begs the City's most worrying question — whether or not the 1992 final dividend will be cut.

As for demerger proposals, the wisdom of putting pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and certain specialty operations into one camp, and housing industrial chemicals, paints, materials and explosives in another, must now be increasingly questioned.

Virtually all operations continue to be buffeted by recession, and it was only pharmaceuticals that turned in something of a credible performance, with quarterly trading profits virtually steady at £146 million.

Industrial chemicals turned in a third-quarter loss: explosives were down from £15 million to £9 million; losses with materials rose from £14 million to £27 million; and there was a £2 million loss at agrochemicals and seeds.

The dividend question will be answered on February 25, though if 1992 pre-tax profits do fall as far as £550 million from last year's £843 million, to give net earnings of 49p, a total 55p dividend would be uncovered — and ICI would break new ground.

ICI's goal of dividend stability suggests the company will do its utmost to hold the 1992 final, but if a chasm looms as 1993 breaks, then the dividend should not be regarded as sacred.

The shares trade on 21 times prospective earnings. Meanwhile, prospects for 1993 are clouded, and the shares still look over-priced.

## Political uncertainty unnerves the Dow

SHARES were mixed at midday as political uncertainty rippled through Wall Street with blue chips surrendering previous gains. The Dow Jones Industrial average was down 0.54 at 3,250.86. Traders said the market became squeamish on news of an opinion poll showing President Bush gaining ground in the run-up to the presidential election.

Shares closed slightly weaker after a day of moderate fluctuations but the market shrugged off the latest Sino-British dispute, brokers said. The Hang Seng index closed down 9.48 points (0.15 per cent) at 6,117.50. An expected plunge following Wednesday's release of disputed Sino-British correspondence dating from 1990 over Hong Kong's future had

not materialised. Turnover slid to a relatively modest HK\$2.05 billion from Wednesday's HK\$2.5 billion. Tokyo — The Nikkei closed below 17,000 for the first time in seven trading days, finishing 130.70 points down, or 0.77 per cent, to 16,937.71, with an estimated 160 million shares traded. Brokers said sluggish futures and a lack of factors weighed on prices. The TOPIX index was down 5.26 points to 1,287.13. Frankfurt — Worries about higher German taxes and the decision by the Bundesbank not to change interest rates hit German share prices. Selling, in particular from abroad, pushed the DAX index below the psychological 1,500 point level to a 1.1 per cent lower close at 1,493.64. (Reuters)

	Oct 29	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 24	Oct 23	Oct 22	Oct 21	Oct 20	Oct 19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sept 30	Sept 29	Sept 28	Sept 27	Sept 26	Sept 25	Sept 24	Sept 23	Sept 22	Sept 21	Sept 20	Sept 19	Sept 18	Sept 17	Sept 16	Sept 15	Sept 14	Sept 13	Sept 12	Sept 11	Sept 10	Sept 9	Sept 8	Sept 7	Sept 6	Sept 5	Sept 4	Sept 3	Sept 2	Sept 1	Aug 31	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	Aug 8	Aug 7	Aug 6	Aug 5	Aug 4	Aug 3	Aug 2	Aug 1	July 31	July 30	July 29	July 28	July 27	July 26	July 25	July 24	July 23	July 22	July 21	July 20	July 19	July 18	July 17	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1	June 30	June 29	June 28	June 27	June 26	June 25	June 24	June 23	June 22	June 21	June 20	June 19	June 18	June 17	June 16	June 15	June 14	June 13	June 12	June 11	June 10	June 9	June 8	June 7	June 6	June 5	June 4	June 3	June 2	June 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	April 30	April 29	April 28	April 27	April 26	April 25	April 24	April 23	April 22	April 21	April 20	April 19	April 18	April 17	April 16	April 15	April 14	April 13	April 12	April 11	April 10	April 9	April 8	April 7	April 6	April 5	April 4	April 3	April 2	April 1	March 31	March 30	March 29	March 28	March 27	March 26	March 25	March 24	March 23	March 22	March 21	March 20	March 19	March 18	March 17	March 16	March 15	March 14	March 13	March 12	March 11	March 10	March 9	March 8	March 7	March 6	March 5	March 4	March 3	March 2	March 1	February 28	February 27	February 26	February 25	February 24	February 23	February 22	February 21	February 20	February 19	February 18	February 17	February 16	February 15	February 14	February 13	February 12	February 11	February 10	February 9	February 8	February 7	February 6	February 5	February 4	February 3	February 2	February 1	January 31	January 30	January 29	January 28	January 27	January 26	January 25	January 24	January 23	January 22	January 21	January 20	January 19	January 18	January 17	January 16	January 15	January 14	January 13	January 12	January 11	January 10	January 9	January 8	January 7	January 6	January 5	January 4	January 3	January 2	January 1	December 31	December 30	December 29	December 28	December 27	December 26	December 25	December 24	December 23	December 22	December 21	December 20	December 19	December 18	December 17	December 16	December 15	December 14	December 13	December 12	December 11	December 10	December 9	December 8	December 7	December 6	December 5	December 4	December 3	December 2	December 1	November 30	November 29	November 28	November 27	November 26	November 25	November 24	November 23	November 22	November 21	November 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## Black cloud over the single market

The endless debate on the Maastricht treaty has overshadowed the advent in just over two months of the single European market. It was not too long ago that the single market, once euphemistically nicknamed "Europe 1992", was thought to be one of the most important landmarks ever agreed in Europe's economic history. Today, one could be forgiven for thinking that the single market has passed into history before it has even begun.

A report published this week by the high level committee chaired by Peter Sutherland, a former European competition commissioner, serves as a timely reminder that Europe still faces formidable hurdles in the transition to a single market. These are not legislative hurdles, since most of the single market legislation has been ratified by parliaments. The real hurdles are, as ever, far more subtle. Mr Sutherland gives a warning that the potential of the single market will not be reached as long as European law remains as messy and unconsolidated as it is at present. Few companies and consumers are aware of all the relevant directives in a particular field, and even national courts are frequently unaware, or at least uncertain, on the implications of European law. A great deal of work has yet to be done to improve the legal and regulatory interfaces between national and European levels.

But perhaps a more important threat to the single market is the clamour for subsidiarity, according to Mr Sutherland. Subsidiarity is essentially the principle to carry out a particular policy at the lowest desirable level. Subsidiarity should not apply to areas, such as the single market, where European countries have explicitly agreed that the lowest desirable level is that of the Community. The lack of subsidiarity is the whole point of the single market. The application of "subsidiarity" in this area would imply a return to inefficient market systems from which Europe is rightly moving away, a return to protectionism and the Europe of the non-tariff barrier.

The ghost of protectionism is the real target of Mr Sutherland's warnings. There can be little doubt that the bitterness with which the current European debate is sometimes conducted is, in part, a reflection of the depressed economic climate. In such a climate, calls for protectionism tend to flourish. Mr Sutherland is therefore right to remind Europe of the need to make a success of the single market, one of the greatest anti-protectionist projects ever undertaken.

## Debt mess

Heron's debts were so big that they were always going to be regarded as more of a problem for the banks than a threat to the existence of the company. Barclays, a strong supporter of Gerald Ronson, Heron's former chairman, has more than £8.5 billion outstanding in loans to the construction and property sectors. There was little real alternative to a rescue. Dumping a substantial portfolio of property would almost certainly have destroyed an unwilling and fragile market. For Barclays and the rest of the banking system, the plight of the property business is appalling and will not become much easier for several years. How Barclays must now regret the squandering of its rights issue of a few years back through heavy support for leading property companies near the top of a hugely inflated market. Analysts expect Barclays' provisions for bad and doubtful loans to top £2 billion this year, falling to about £1.8 billion next. Even in 1994, the banks will probably be providing close on £1.4 billion to cover disasters in property and business generally. After the fringe banking and property crisis of the mid-1970s the banks said "never again". Where was the Bank of England while the latest mess was being created?

**Jonathan Pryn**  
looks at the passing of Heron into the hands of the powerbrokers of the 1990s

The recession has finally caught up with Gerald Ronson. The man who introduced the self-service petrol station to Britain and built his father's tiny furniture firm into Britain's second-biggest privately owned company, was humbled yesterday before the 1990s' business power brokers — the banks. It is a measure of the severity of the problems that face Mr Ronson's private commercial fiefdom that his debt restructuring proposal involves surrendering 95 per cent of the equity in the company to his creditors.

But for once in his life, in talks with the banks, Mr Ronson held by far the weaker cards. The only realistic alternative to giving way to virtually every bank demand was receivership. This way, at least Mr Ronson keeps management control of his company, even if his shareholding will be diluted virtually to extinction.

Mr Ronson's reversal of fortune is, in its way, even more shocking than those of the other great entrepreneurial victims of the recession. Mr Ronson seems to have been around for so long, and to have pulled off so many successful deals, that his nemesis comes as a greater surprise. Unlike almost all the comparable entrepreneurs of his generation, Mr Ronson has never resorted to the public markets for equity backing, so has been able to maintain a greater degree of personal control of his ventures. He has also always enjoyed a good reputation among his business peers. In 1984, he received the Hambro Businessman of the Year award from the then Chancellor, Nigel Lawson.

Mr Ronson was described at the Guinness trial by Sir John Quinlan, the chairman of Barclays Bank, and a pillar of the financial establishment, as "the finest businessman of his generation". Whether Sir John would stand by that judgment in the light of events since March must be open to question. Barclays has been the bank closest to Heron since the 1970s and has an exposure to the debt-laden group estimated at £120 million. But for all the accolades, controversy was never too far away from Mr Ronson, culminating in his six-month incarceration at Ford Open prison



Distaff side: Gail Ronson and the couple's daughters

for his part in the Guinness scandal in 1990. In 1976, Mr Ronson's uncle, Gerald Israel Ronson, and his cousin, Howard Ronson, were heavily censured in a trade department report that concluded that "neither is a suitable person at the present time to act as a director of the company". Nine years later, Mr Ronson was forced to issue a statement insisting that his dealings in BT shares at the time of the flotation were "perfectly proper and in order", after reports that he had been involved in an improper share deal involving Sir Philip Harris. Last year, it was disclosed that Heron lost £25 million through the collapse in the share price of Control Securities, in which it had a 16 per cent stake. But it was the Guinness trial two years ago that made Mr Ronson the subject of national headlines. He was given a £5 million fine, the biggest for a private individual in British legal history, and sentenced to a year in prison. Only six

months of the sentence was served, but even as Mr Ronson whiled away the weeks at the Sussex prison, a far more destructive force was at work, undermining his business achievements in a way that the Guinness scandal never threatened to do. In March last year, just after his release, Mr Ronson informed his staff in the company magazine: "Heron weathered previous

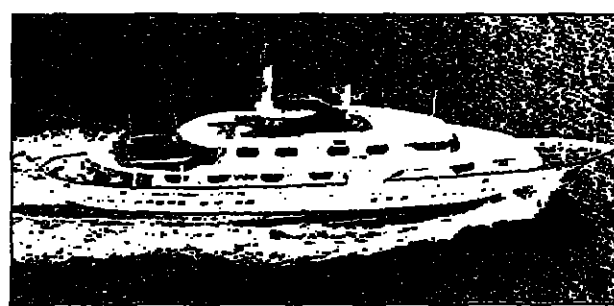
recessions in 1973-74 and 1981 and we will weather this one." Within four months, however, the financial markets were indicating that

they did not believe Mr Ronson's PR bravado and that the company was in trouble. By July, Heron Eurobonds were trading at just 53 per cent of their face value as rumours about cash shortages at the company began to do the rounds. In March this year, the company called for emergency meetings with its bankers as trading in its Swiss franc Eurobonds were suspended. From that moment, the desti-

## The destiny of the company was for the first time out of the hands of Mr Ronson



Humbled at Heron: Gerald Ronson, victim of recession



Floating fortunes: the family yacht, My Gail III

ny of the company was for the first time out of the hands of Mr Ronson and his immediate family.

The story of Mr Ronson's rise to fortune in the 1960s after investing the proceeds from the sale of his father's furniture business in property is well known. He was a millionaire by the age of 23 and went on to acquire all the standard trappings of the successful entrepreneur.

From luxury yacht to permanent sun tan. An aggressive move into petrol stations in 1966 provided the financial platform for the rapid growth of the group through the 1970s as deal followed deal. Most were in property, although the group diversified into motor dealerships. It was during the 1970s that Mr Ronson gained his reputation as a capitalist with a human face by supporting a wide range of charitable causes. Even as the recession threatened to undermine all the achievements of Heron Inter-

national last year, the company gave £4.3 million to charity, making it one of the biggest corporate givers in Britain.

During the 1980s, Mr Ronson turned his attentions to property opportunities in America. It was this decision, taken more than a decade ago, that perhaps ultimately contributed more than anything else to his financial downfall.

In July 1982, Heron spent \$75 million buying 12,500 acres of land previously owned by Howard Hughes in Tucson, Arizona. The

deal looked a financial coup and other American deals followed. In 1984, documents released in connection with a bond issue suggested that the company believed it was \$150 million up on the deal. The American property operations were carried out by a Heron subsidiary called Pima Savings, a savings and loans association bought by Heron in 1980. In 1985, Pima made pre-tax profits of \$27 million

and in 1986 its net worth was estimated at \$113 million. But from 1987 onwards, the American property market began its long and relentless decline, which accelerated as the end of the decade approached. Few regions of America were worse affected by the crash than the sun-belt states of the south west, where Pima was based.

In 1990, the year of Mr Ronson's legal problems, Heron was forced to write off £193.2 million for the 1989-90 financial year in connection with losses linked to Pima, which was by then in liquidation.

The write-off pushed Heron into a net loss for the year of £145.3 million. Mr Ronson said he had met his match in the "shark pool" of the American property market. While the American property problem was the biggest facing the group, all its other markets were also being hard hit by recession.

The rest of the year saw Heron attempting to sell assets in order to meet the crippling interest bill on its debt burden, which had climbed to more than £1 billion.

No assets were considered sacred in this last ditch attempt to stave off the inevitable, from the petrol stations that made Gerald Ronson his first serious fortune, to the yacht that he named after his wife, Gail.

Unfortunately for Mr Ronson, buyers for the assets were few and far between.

This year, the company announced its first pre-tax loss, and its first fall in earnings and net worth. In the face of mounting difficulties, the company attempted to avoid the fate that had befallen so many other overgeared, cash-strapped victims of the property crash by calling a pre-emptive meeting with its bankers to inform them of the full gravity of the financial position facing it.

That move may well have saved the company, preserving an element of credibility and good will at a time when so many other less open borrowers have been allowed to go to the wall.

Heron also seems to have been helped by the relatively straightforward structure of its debt, and perhaps by the absence of small shareholders to complicate the issues. Nevertheless, the negotiations with creditors have been long and complex.

The ball is now in the court of banks and bondholders. At this stage, it looks as if Heron may scrape through its difficulties. In that respect, Mr Ronson can consider himself fortunate.

## US property contributed more than anything to his financial downfall

### LETTERS

## Cabinet must learn a country's greatest asset is its workforce

From Mr Brian Hulme

Sir, I wonder when someone in our cabinet is going to realise that the most important asset a business or country can have are its people/staff. During the last few years most of the confidence and enthusiasm has been drained out of the workforce of this country. I have founded two businesses in my life, both of which have eventually floated as public companies and we were all proud that they had a track record of growth of twenty-five times the shareholders' original investment.

I only make this point, not as one of ego, but it was purely the common sense recognition that staff must come first, the company second and yourself last. If you look after the staff and encourage them and reward them fairly, and look after the products of the company and the name of the company, you will find that you are automatically looked after.

Try it the other way round and look after yourself first, the product second and to hell with the staff and you won't have a business for more than a few months.

The United Kingdom is a massive business with probably the best available workforce in the world and what have we got? A burning board of directors (who would surely have got the sack a long time ago had they been in commerce), some wonderful products and the unhappiest staff one could ever wish to imagine.

In fact it would appear to me that the way we are closing down pits and hospitals without proper consultation, we are doing our best to make the

situation even worse. Can somebody out there reading this letter, get over to the government that they must, at the earliest possible moment, create the situation whereby they can guarantee the interest rates will not fluctuate to impossible levels, so that people can buy houses with confidence and open businesses with confidence.

They must also create an atmosphere showing that they care about people, that a pit making a profit is not more important than 30,000 jobs. Show a plan for building roads, railways, tunnels, anything of use to the community, so that jobs can be created soon.

Perhaps we should have a clause where anyone taking cabinet office must have been in business at some time or other in their lives and even had to have had their shirt on the line. Then I think we would have very different decisions.

Can you imagine Lord Hanson, Charles Forté or any of the other giants in industry dismissing a massive amount of their staff without due consultation?

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN HULME  
Retired Chairman,  
Sandhurst Marketing Plc,  
Spectra Automotive & Engineering Plc,  
The Penthouse,  
Barris de la Miele,  
St Aubin,  
Jersey.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

## Supervisory role

From Mr P Robeson

Sir, Your Comment (October 23) says, apropos the Bank of England, BCCI and Bingham, that supervision is the poor relation in an institution where interest rates and foreign exchange occupy centre stage.

Whether that be true or not, in the context of calls for an "independent" Bank of England and comparisons with the Bundesbank, it is interesting that the latter, quite deliberately, has no banking supervisory role regarding supervision as likely to complicate its essential monetary

role. The closure in 1974 of the Herstatt bank during the international dealing day was, however, not perhaps what a central bank with a market presence would have done. Yours faithfully,  
P W ROBESON,  
Thatchers, Happisburgh,  
Norwich, Norfolk.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Teaming up with CLL

ONLY five weeks after being shown the door by County NatWest, Rowan "Rags" Simmonds and his highly rated small companies team have found a new home at Credit Lyonnais Laing. Simmonds, 47, was determined to move his team together, a difficult task at the best of times, and is happily taking Penny Ever, Simon King and Mark Murphy with him to CLL on November 9. Their appointment is another coup for Michael Kerr-Dineen, chief executive at Credit Lyonnais Securities, which, against all market trends, continues to expand, and has recruited its third Exel-rated team in two months. Simmonds, of CLL, whose corporate list includes Medeva, the star small pharmaceuticals firm, says: "They are the only top ten player with a strategic commitment to small companies on research, sales and corporate finance." Simmonds is also keen on the culture at CLL, reminiscent of his days at Capel-Cure Myers. "They still have the old partnership atmosphere," he enthuses.

### Bard barb

IT SEEMS to be time to brush up on Shakespeare. BZW has been using the codename of Caesar for Tomkins in the RHM takeover bid. Ironically, Morgan Grenfell, adviser to RHM, has been using the same codename to refer to Lord Hanson. Both apparently see RHM as Cleopatra, but



On the mend

which merchant bank is referring to whom under the codename of Cassius, the arch assassin, famous in the play for his "lean and hungry look"? BZW, advising Tomkins, believes Lord Hanson's distinguished, gaunt features fit the bill, but Morgan Grenfell has cast Greg Hutchings, Tomkins' chief executive, in the role. Perhaps that is because, having been Lord Hanson's lieutenant, he may be about to put the knife in. Surely, the unkindest cut of all?

### Just the job

AS REVEALED by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House dinner last night, the legal risk review committee, the body set up by the Bank of England in the wake of the Hammer-smith swaps case, is to be disbanded and replaced with the financial law panel. About six high-calibre lawyers are needed to serve on the panel and Tamasin Little, a lawyer with Stephenson Harwood, is being used as

an advertisement for the job. Little, who was seconded to the secretariat to the review committee a year ago, was, at that time, promoted from senior assistant solicitor to senior associate. She has now been made a partner. Urging fellow lawyers to consider applying for one of the seconded jobs, Chris Stokes, one of Little's more senior colleagues wryly observes: "Apply now, it could give your career just the fillip it needs."

### On the mend

ABSENT from the Stock Exchange Cricket Club dinner at Simpson's-in-the-Strand this week, was Nick Clough, the dinner's long-standing organiser and a familiar figure on the old stock exchange floor when he was a stock jobber at Bisgood Bishop, Clough, 49 this week, has had pancreaticitis and undergone three major operations. According to friends, he has lost four and a half stones and was twice deemed to be on the way out. After staging a miraculous recovery, however, he is out of intensive care at the Law Hospital, Lanarkshire. Anxious to boost his spirits, Winterflood Securities, the firm effectively born out of Bisgood Bishop, has sent a copy of Madonna's book, Sex, and his visitors this weekend will include David Langmead of Besson Gregory and David "Monny" Monnickendam of Allied Provincial. Langmead says: "I've spoken to the hospital all along and they said he needed a miracle. One prayer and at last he's off the drips."

DEBRA ISAAC

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## Promoting an image of industry and success

Milton Keynes remains the United Kingdom's fastest-growing city, despite the recession. The population, which rose by 5,600 a year in that last decade, 30 times the national rate, has averaged an annual increase of just under 3,000 during the less buoyant early 1990s.

The present population is 151,500. The target to be achieved early in the new millennium is 210,000, making the city one of the UK's 15 largest urban centres. There are now more than 32,000 jobs in the city, of which 20,000 have been created in the past five years. The total number of jobs in the borough, an area three times that of the new city, is 96,500.

The challenge is to maintain the momentum of inward investment when the city no longer has a "new town" brand image. The loss of development corporation status, as happened on April 1 this year despite local objections, usually means that a new community is regarded as virtually complete.

However, the city still has a good way to go to meet its original objectives. The only objective to be scaled down has been the population target, from

Milton Keynes may be losing its 'new town' reputation, but its population is still growing by 3,000 a year, David Crawford reports

250,000 to 210,000, in response to demographic trends. This still leaves 22,000 additional homes, private and social, to construct, and a further 50,000 jobs to create.

The Commission for the New Towns, which has taken over responsibility for completing the master plan, faces a task equivalent to building from scratch one of the smaller new towns whose assets it manages.

The job is clearly relished by the commission's locally based executive officer, John Napleton. He points to an infrastructure that is virtually complete. About six miles of new roads and several key rail and river bridges have been opened during the past two months. The last links in the primary road network will be in place early next year, giving access to housing and employment sites to the east of the city centre.

To keep fresh investment flowing in, the commission has committed itself to

a promotional operation on a larger scale than in any previous new town it has taken over. The chosen means is a free-standing agency, Milton Keynes Marketing (MKM), a joint venture of the commission, the borough and county councils, the local chamber of commerce and the Milton Keynes & North Bucks Training and Enterprise Council, with an annual £2.5 million budget.

A priority for MKM is to maintain the rate of investment from overseas. The city's international appeal is illustrated by the fact that 260 of its 2,900 employers are foreign-owned and now employ 15 per cent of the work-force.

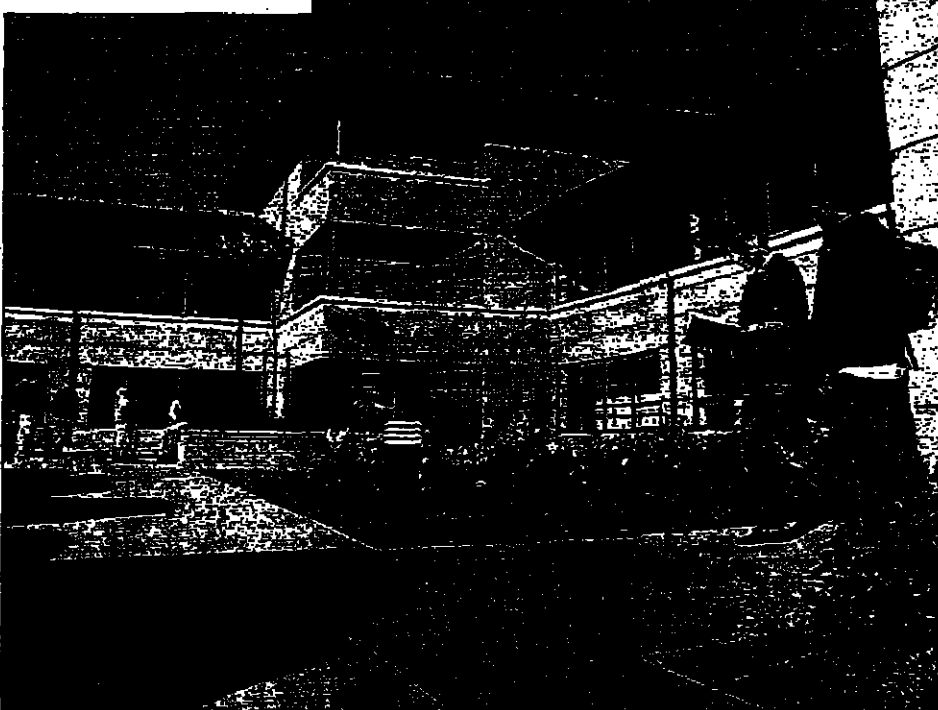
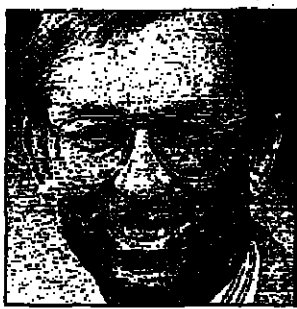
Milton Keynes is an established destination for Japanese business. It has 45 Japanese companies, the highest concentration outside London. Recent arrivals include the NYK Line, a Mitsubishi Group shipping subsidiary, which has chosen a site at Tūbrook for

its 294,000 sq ft logistics complex, and the wiring specialist Yazaki, which decided on Gazeley Properties' Caldecotte Lake Business Park.

The United States has brought 90 new employers and mainland Europe 120. More than two-thirds of the latter are from other EC members, principally Germany and France. One of the points that MKM stresses to European-owned companies and their UK subsidiaries is a location within 100 miles of the main east coast ports and an hour's drive from four airports. The city is also scheduled as a stop on the cross-Channel rail link.

Domestically, the emphasis is on attracting large UK employers to the city for both headquarters and back-up relocations. Successes to date include the British Standards Institution, Argos, BRS and Abbey National.

Sectors being targeted include electronics, telecommunications and robotics (already employing 12 per cent of the workforce); pharmaceuticals; rubber, plastics and packaging; transportation and the automotive industry; food and drink processing; and UK-based financial services. "We are concentrating on growth areas," says Bill Williams, MKM's chief executive.



John Napleton, of the CNT, inset; and students at the De Montfort University campus

The city is just the place for those who are keen to go back to school

## Education well catered for at all levels

The planning of Britain's largest new town as a self-contained city on mostly undeveloped land has meant the creation of a social infrastructure on an unprecedented scale, David Crawford writes.

Since designation in 1967, 41 schools have been built in the city and providing for the educational needs takes up 21 per cent of Buckinghamshire County Council's total budget.

Secondary education is based on modern campuses whose greenfield sites reflect modern thinking on the link between formal education and leisure provision for the community as a whole. Further education focuses on Milton Keynes College which has more than 7,000 students at three centres.

In higher education, Milton Keynes has proved a magnet. Before the arrival of the Open University in 1969, no British new town housed a university — now there are four within a short radius.

In 1990 the Development Corporation invited academic institutions to bid for the opportunity to establish a local satellite. The successful tenderer was Leicester's De Montfort University, chosen for a curriculum package concentrating on business, the built environment, computing and engineering.

De Montfort offers courses in conjunction with Milton Keynes College and on its own site next to the Open University and, since opening in 1991, has increased to more than 800 full and part-time students — 20 per cent of the full-timers being local.

A few miles beyond the city boundaries are the private university of Buckingham and the Cranfield Institute of Technology.

The health facility has its own campus at Eaglestone, where phase two of the Milton Keynes general hospital opened in 1991.

Local health care operates from centres in each of the

city's residential grid squares, with automated information systems increasing face-to-face contacts by 10 per cent over the past year and computerised childcare recording coming on stream in 1992.

Community support is destined to become the main responsibility of the borough council, which now owns more than 50 neighbourhood and children's centres. The Commission for the New Towns retains a role, however.

John Napleton, the executive officer, says: "We are working with the borough to target limited resources to the areas of greatest need."

Leisure-oriented development began in the 1980s. The Point — an integrated entertainment complex with Britain's first purpose-designed multiplex cinema — opened in 1985, while the Bowl has featured entertainers such as the pop singers Michael Jackson and David Bowie.

The Leisure Plaza, opened in 1990, provides 36 lanes of ten-pin bowling and an Olympic-scale ice-skating rink — the venue for next month's British ice figure skating championships — which was used as this year's Olympic squad training camp.

The city has also been selected as the site of the National Hockey Centre. The Royal Shakespeare Company, Welsh National Opera and Royal Ballet have all performed in Milton Keynes, but backing has yet to be found for a purpose-designed theatre. The Commission for the New Towns, however, remains firmly committed to the project.

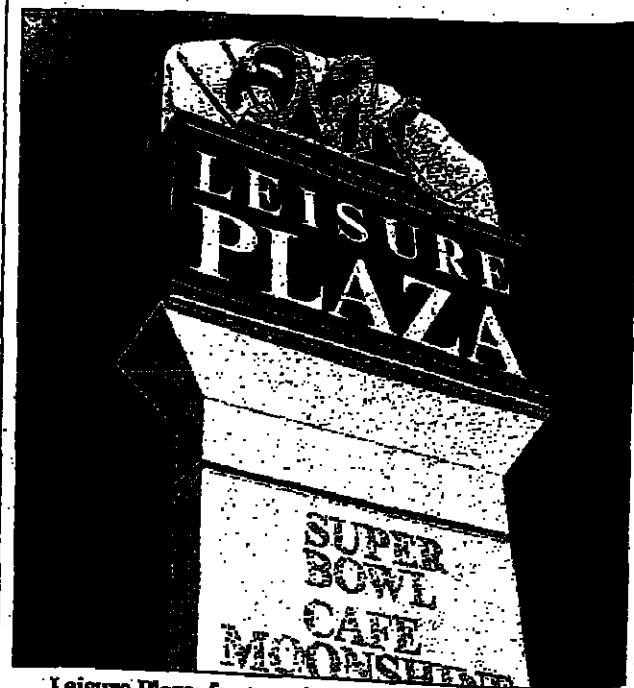
One of the greatest successes of the city is its scope for informal recreation. More than a fifth of the area is devoted to open space — nearly 70 per cent more than envisaged in the 1970 master plan — despite the city's popularity with industry, which has meant a 50 per cent increase in the allocation of employment land.

A great success of the city is its scope for informal recreation

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Leisure Plaza: for ten-pin bowling and ice skating



# A move in the right direction

**David Crawford reports on the new city: a place where jobs are on the increase**

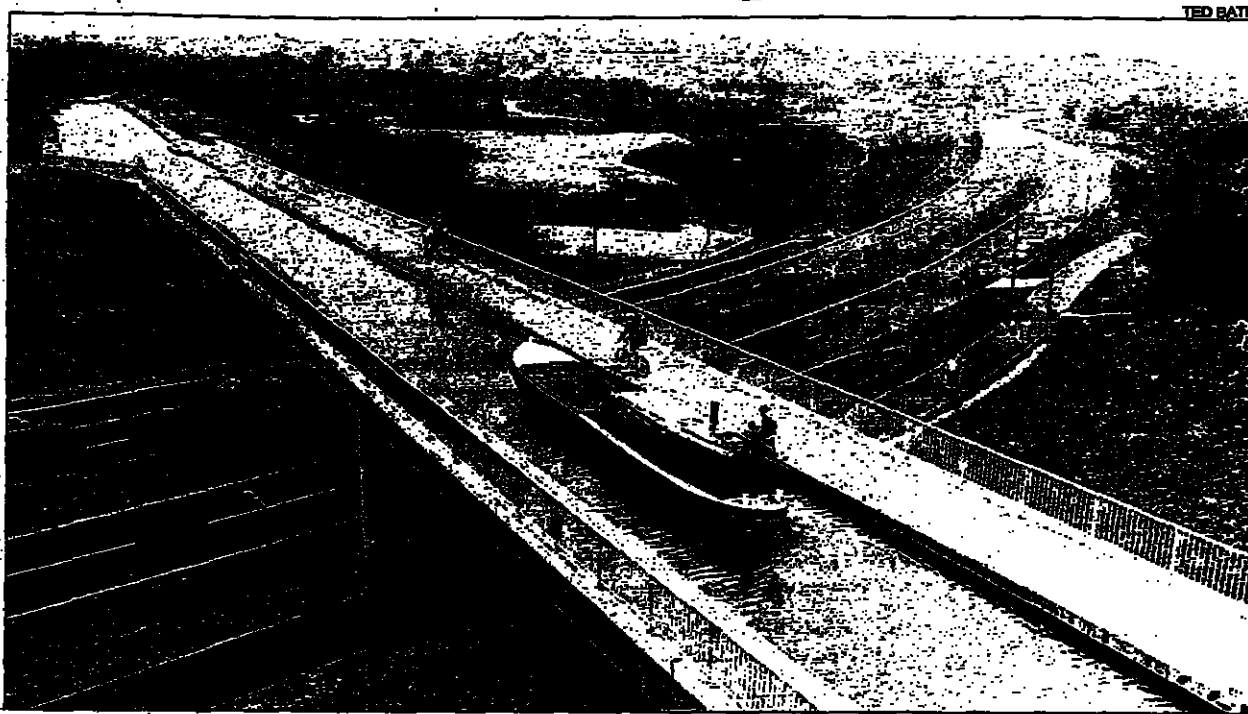
In sharp contrast to most of Britain, Milton Keynes has succeeded in keeping its head above water on the jobs front. A recently published survey by Chesterton Consulting shows that overall employment fell by slightly more than 0.5 per cent during the year to April 1992, compared with drops of 1.83 per cent for Britain as a whole and of 4.26 per cent for the south-eastern region.

Excluding construction, the results show a net gain in permanent jobs of 154 — bringing total employment at the start of the financial year to 82,000. New jobs created totalled 4,620, while expansion by existing businesses added a further 1,895 posts. This has more than compensated for the loss of 6,361 jobs, of which nearly 12 per cent was due to the winding up of the Milton Keynes Development Corporation.

The increase in vacancies has come from private sector investment, which set a record of £374 million for the year, with 124 businesses opening for the first time and 98 established companies opening new facilities. Maintaining this level of interest is crucial in an area where unemployment was virtually non-existent before the recession.

Day nurseries are provided to make it easier for married women to work in a jobs market where 45 per cent of the workforce is female.

It is also a very young city, with a quarter of the population being under 16. "The rate



Cruising along: the first aqueduct to be built on the Grand Union Canal for 50 years cost the city £4 million

of job growth has to be higher than elsewhere in the UK just to find work for the people already here," Philippa Eccles, the Chamber of Commerce chief executive, says.

In the half year since April, Milton Keynes Marketing (MKM) estimates that at least 700 new jobs have been created. This compares with an annual average of 3,600 during the ten years to April 1992, but Bill Williams, the chief executive, is confident that business will pick up — emphasising the policy of targeting growth sectors "which will be the first to expand again once economic conditions improve".

Sites for developments to house a further 50,000 or so jobs have been identified in a plan under which the Commission for the New Towns (CNT) is empowered to grant detailed planning consent on

disposal. On transfer day, April 1, it inherited 750 acres of industrial land (more than half in serviced plots), 86 acres of commercial land in central Milton Keynes and the adjacent Campbell Park.

There is steady interest in acquiring industrial development land, and the CNT recently received six tenders for eight acres at Brinklow. "Prices bid were buoyant," Maureen Miller, principal estates officer, says, "on a par with those achieved by the development corporation, and this will lead to further substantial disposals on the eastern flank of the city."

A German chemical additives company is interested in buying four acres of industrial land for owner occupation, attracted by easy planning consents and the availability of room for expansion. The CNT is engaged in negotiations

over a further 20 acres. The largest site involves nine acres at Kingston, on the city's eastern flank.

In central Milton Keynes, commercial sites awaiting disposal for development include phase three of the Central Business Exchange, where the planning brief envisages 300,000 sq ft of offices, a second hotel with conference facilities, and additional shopping and entertainment.

With about a million sq ft of vacant office space in central and outlying areas, commercial development has been quiet. John Napleton, the CNT executive officer, is, however, optimistic about the prospects of concluding some significant disposals to owner occupiers by the end of the year. "If all goes well, we could agree deals

amounting to 150,000 sq ft," he says.

Important recent office lettings have been in the 30,000 sq ft-plus range. BSI has taken Sun Alliance's Scorpio House (through joint agents Connell Wilson and Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks) while BRS's national headquarters is now in Ashford Developments' Solstice House.

Most of Guinness Mahon/Britel's Bank House has been let in units of between 7,000 sq ft and 17,000 sq ft to occupiers including Accuma, Anway and Zurich Insurance. "Take-up is more active at the lower end of the size range," John Fowler, of Connell Wilson, says.

Responding to market conditions, rents for prime city centre space are currently being negotiated on a stepped basis, starting at £12.50 and

rising to £17.50 per sq ft over the last five years. They can fall to £10 baseline for new space out of town.

To encourage start-ups the Milton Keynes Business Venture, set up in 1983 as the local enterprise agency, provides serviced "easy-in-easy-out" accommodation for up to three years. Industrial units start from £130 per month all-in for 180 sq ft at the Kila Farm Industrial Development Centre, which is 70 per cent occupied. The comparable licence fee is £180 per month for a 135 sq ft business suite at the Denbigh Office Service Centre, where just under half the space is available.

Other small businesses are looking at the older towns to the north-west and south of the city, where landowners and developers are looking seriously at the potential for small office suites over and behind high street shops. Marketing adviser Sally Hensent set up her Profiles consultancy in a converted 200-year-old barn in Stony Stratford, from where she conducts business over a 40-mile radius.

The CNT's legacy from the development corporation also included 1,450 acres of housing land — enough to build 12,300 of the new homes needed, about half of them on the city's western flank. Its subsequent disposal of 167 acres, followed by the recent marketing of a further 12, is evidence of continuing commitment to affordable housing after the collapse of the 1980s house price boom.

Developers who are currently active include John Mowlem Homes, Persimmon and Wimpey, all with properties for first-time buyers at £40,000 or less. At the top end of the new homes market, Westbury Homes is selling detached, individually designed properties on a four-house development on the southeastern fringe of the city for up to £154,000.

## Support systems built from scratch

The city has more voluntary groups per head than anywhere else in Britain

The people of Milton Keynes realised that support systems and community activities which normally exist in established communities would be absent as the Buckinghamshire village turned itself into a city.

The Milton Keynes Development Corporation has spent much time and money establishing a network of workers to help the local communities to set up associations, clubs and self-help groups. One of the results is that there are now believed to be more voluntary groups per head in Milton Keynes than anywhere else in Britain.

Five years ago the Development Corporation set up the Community Trust. Largely through raising money from local companies such as Abbey National, VAG and Argos, the trust has an endowment fund of £800,000. With a little help

raffle, Abbey National, the town's biggest employer, donates about £20,000 a year. A firm of solicitors, Fennemores, donated £750 in place of sending Christmas cards.

Lesley Timpon, the Community Trust grants director, says: "We only give to groups who help people. I think companies feel a loyalty not only to Milton Keynes but to the work we are doing."

Abbey National says: "We like the Community Trust because it enables us to contribute to more than a thousand local causes at once."

On the arts side, the Milton Keynes Foundation and the Arts Association give away about £80,000 between them to a whole range of cultural activities. Maggie Nevitt, adviser to the foundation, says: "We have over the last year rather split our function and now are much more interested in high profile events, while the Arts Association is more involved with grassroots activities. The foundation supplies the Arts Association with a £10,000 annual grant."

Sir Peter Thompson, foundation chairman, says: "The endowment was founded because of the fear that the new town might become a philistine desert. We concentrate on innovative projects that would not get government or commercial sponsorship."

Further down the scale the Arts Association is involved in school groups, local theatre groups and local arts events. Roger Kettle, Arts Association chairman, says: "There is a very real danger, with the cutbacks threatened by local authorities, that not only the arts but the community will suffer. The arts do a lot to make the community worthwhile and viable."

HUGH THOMPSON

Sir Peter: innovation

from the county council, the trust dispenses £90,000 a year. This ranges from the maximum £4,000 to a victim support group, to a £75 grant to a group of families to set up a parents' helpline.

An important source of funds is companies, VAG, the Volkswagen distributor has, for three years in a row, donated a car for a successful

## Acres of opportunity for small business

Firms have not been slow to appreciate the location

Business people like Milton Keynes, as a place in which to work and to live (David Crawford writes). Interviewed for a recent survey by Chesterton Consulting, 71 per cent of locally based businesses rated Milton Keynes "a good place to be", while 69 per cent voted it "a good place to live".

In a Mori poll on relocation criteria, UK business leaders gave the city high ratings for accessibility, competitive property prices and availability of skilled labour.

These factors have pulled in big names, including BRS and Abbey National. Abbey National now has 3,500 people — most of its headquarters operations staff — based in Milton Keynes.

The build-up has been continuous over the past decade, aided by good transport and telecommunications links with the Abbey's corporate HQ in Baker Street and culminating in last year's opening of a £40 million computer complex at Shenley Wood.

Steady growth in overseas investment has increased foreign-owned companies in Milton Keynes, from 68 ten years ago to 260 today. A recent arrival is NYK, Japan's oldest shipping group, which chose the city as the base for New Wave Logistics, its European distribution subsidiary. Employers from three conti-

nents have been attracted to a location at the heart of the UK's automotive industry. Nissan has its European Research and Development centre at nearby Cranfield. Mercedes-Benz and VAG have their UK distribution centres in the city, and components suppliers are following their example.

The American-owned Dana Corporation dispatches more than £250,000 worth of spare motor parts and accessories daily from its Rookley depot, near the city centre. "In any other part of the UK," says Dick Jones, the general manager, "the position would be a disadvantage. But here all major roads are dual carriageways and the five miles to the M1 can be covered non-stop in minutes."

Planned from the outset to avoid over-reliance on any one economic sector, Milton Keynes is also proving a good environment for small businesses. Eighty per cent of companies have fewer than 20 employees, and the city has earned a reputation as a welcoming place in which to start up or expand a business. "This is a very open business community," says Philippa Eccles, the Chamber of Commerce chief executive, "with plenty of 'networking', which allows people to put roots down quickly."

Brian Hocken, corporate

business manager with the Midland Bank, which has built up from five to 60 staff over the past ten years and may relocate its regional office to Milton Keynes, is bullish about the future. "We are still expanding and putting on new business," he says.

A typical new frontier success is Polaris, an eyewear manufacturer which relocated from Surrey with a staff of three in the mid-1980s and has since grown to 15 working in a bigger building at Wolverton Mill, Milton Keynes. "Good staff availability is one reason we came," Langton Wildman, the managing director, says. "And, thanks to high productivity, we are expanding."

Another success is Windsor, whose founders arrived in Britain from Australia five years ago. Their double-glazing and conservatory company employs 26 people, with a £1 million-plus turnover.

David and Karen Boyle met and married in Milton Keynes, where their parents had moved to find affordable housing. They run their respective businesses — specialist camera repair and computer-aided design for the fashion industry — from a 1,100 sq ft factory on the Wharfedale industrial estate in Penny Strat-



In the know: daily meetings at the Dana Corporation keep the staff fully briefed

ford, one of the older villages absorbed by the new city. The building previously housed Karen's evening wear factory, which fell victim to the recession earlier in the year. "It was much easier to start afresh here than anywhere else," says Mrs Boyle, who is taking a part-time computer science course at the local De Montfort University.

Business support is co-ordinated through a cluster of organisations — the Chamber of Commerce, MK Business

Venture (MKBV) and the Milton Keynes & North Bucks Technical Education Council (TEC) — which have joined forces with the borough council in the Milton Keynes Economic Partnership.

MKBV runs a free counselling service at the local enterprise agency, and courses for potential entrepreneurs, who can also take advantage of its low-cost serviced business and industrial units. Colin Officer, the chief executive, says: "About a third of the people

who attend our courses actually get started in business."

A good index of the demand for skills is the TEC's performance during its first full financial year, which ended in April. While supporting more than 150 start-up businesses and attracting 883 individuals to business skills seminars, it also trained 13.5 per cent more adults and 16-phases than originally predicted and helped them to achieve 820 national vocational qualifications — 50 per cent over target.

## Super heat with super savings

ENERGY Capital UK is among the many titles bestowed on Milton Keynes. Everyone in Britain now has access to technology which allows large energy savings to be made in the home, thanks to techniques developed and tested in Milton Keynes.

In the city there are buildings with solar water heaters, buildings designed to be passive collectors of solar energy, integral sunspaces and conservatories, chemical heat stores, super insulation and a wind-solar co-generation system. The city also has its own 300-acre energy park filled with energy-efficient homes, offices, shops and public buildings.

Futurehome 2000 provides an example of savings that can be made when two or more modern techniques are combined. The Futurehome 2000 incorporates a conservatory from which warm air is propelled into the house by small fans. Double glazing with a heat-reflective coating gives the same effect as triple glazing and among the heating systems is the first application of the Totem system.

This uses a small car engine, in most cases from the Fiat range, which runs in a sound-insulated box on natural gas rather than petrol, so creating no poisonous emissions. Because of the high initial costs of the Totem system it is uneconomic for a

single home, but it has shown that technology could be used to cut the fuel bills in a block of ten or more houses, a small hotel or a community centre.

Milton Keynes is the base of the National Energy Foundation, a registered charity, which administers the National Home Energy Rating Scheme.

The rating can be calculated at the design stage from drawings or from a visit to the home by a trained assessor and, as well as giving a rating, the computer can show which energy-saving measures could prove most effective for each house.

Despite fears that developments in energy efficiency would slow down with the end of the Development Corporation, John Walker, the general manager for the Commission for the New Towns, feels positive. "We are firmly committed to the policies and ideals of the energy park, which the Development Corporation has so successfully implemented to date," he says.

"The energy park will continue to be developed to the same exacting performance standards and high quality until the project is completed. "We are determined to see Milton Keynes remain a pioneer in the energy field well into the next century."

DAVID YOUNG

CNT

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# Fresh standards being set

David Young reports on the variety of reasons that make companies move into the city

Many companies have chosen to settle in Milton Keynes, using its central location in the United Kingdom and access to the rail and road networks to establish their national head offices. The British Standards Institution, however, chose a site in the city for a different reason.

The BSI Quality Assurance division has based itself in Milton Keynes in order to promote its decentralisation policy.

The massive growth of interest in the BSI 5750/ISO 9000 quality assurance standards among domestic and overseas clients, which has led to the expansion of the Quality Assurance operation, has meant that a centralised business is no longer appropriate.

The division is now committed to a regionalisation programme which will make it easier to get closer to its clients and further develop its "partnership approach".

Regional offices have been opened in Dudley in the West Midlands, in Wales and in Scotland. BSI staff are now carrying out an important review of their operations to help decide how best to plan the remainder of the regionalisation exercise over the next few years.

Lord Keith of Castleacre, the BSI president, says: "BSI's strategy is to achieve quality in all the services it provides, recognising that those are in themselves only a means to an end."

"The achievement of quality rests primarily with industry, but it is the BSI's role to support, assist and advise those whose decisions directly affect the practical achievement of quality in the British economy. In a year of recession, when BSI has been facing the same problems as



Village game: cricketers on the Oldbrook ground, which is very close to the city centre

have beset the whole of UK industry, quality has been shown to be one of the most vital factors in company success or even survival."

Lord Keith adds that this has been a significant year for BSI. "Changes to the royal charter in February this year have empowered us to nominate a slimmer, more dynamic board on the basis of members' individual expertise and experience but reflecting the breadth of

interest supporting and served by the institution.

"During the year we have put in place a programme to improve all aspects of organisation and provide a better and more efficient service," he says.

Viv Thomas, the BSI chairman, says: "Political changes in Europe have highlighted the greater importance of agreeing and applying global standards. BSI is long established as a leading contributor

in the preparation of international standards and we are committed to enhancing their value and promoting their use.

"Much has been achieved, but a lot more remains to be done."

"The streamlined business structure and a less hierarchical organisation will, I am convinced, lead to a more cost-efficient and effective overall organisation. We intend to be fully responsive to the needs

of our members and customers.

"Our vision is to become a focal point for improving UK industrial competitiveness and consumer protection through standards, the promotion of quality management systems, product certification and our other related activities," he says.

In the meantime the Milton Keynes office plays an important role, with staff numbers continuing to grow rapidly and projected to rise by 30 per cent a year over the next few years.

The ultimate objective is to maintain constant staff numbers at Milton Keynes over the next five years with the transfer of activities to the regions being balanced by the growth in areas of new work, which will continue to be managed from Milton Keynes.

BSI moved to Milton Keynes from another new town, Hemel Hempstead, where it still has its major testing service department but had no space to accommodate the growing QA operation.

The move started in 1984, and one of the reasons for choosing Milton Keynes was that the existing staff were initially able to continue living in Hemel Hempstead and commute northwards on the M1 or by the fast local rail services.

Another of the main advantages of Milton Keynes, however, was that high-quality housing was being built within walking distance of the new BSI office, and many of the staff chose to move into the area.

Since then, local recruitment from the pool of skilled staff who have been attracted to Milton Keynes has meant that numbers have grown from 120 to 860 and BSI has found that the excellent local shopping, educational and leisure facilities have played an important part in attracting the high quality staff that it needs.

Another advantage has been that the BSI offices are situated on one of the main roads in the Milton Keynes grid system, which has meant that the staff have few problems in home-to-work commuting.

# Learning to manage, all over the world

From Russia to Hong Kong, the Open University has greatly widened its sphere of influence

The Open University, Milton Keynes's most famous alma mater, will supervise the courses of 210,000 UK students this year. In its 20-year history, 115,000 have graduated.

Such is the fame and success of the OU that a burgeoning export market is opening up, with 3,000 studying OU courses in the EC, 1,000 in Hungary and a similar number in Russia. Courses have also been set up in Slovakia, Spain, Germany and Holland. Plans are under way in Singapore and Hong Kong, and OU material and consultancy is being used in India and Pakistan.

John Daniel, the vice-chancellor, says: "In some places we are translating courses; in others they want to do the English course. There is no doubt that this is an area where Britain leads and we have already acted as consultants on distance learning in many countries. These foreign ventures will become profitable next year."

"It all started very gradually ten years ago when a group of expatriate students in Brussels asked whether we could set up facilities for them. In the past two years we have made several important steps towards becoming a global university."

An important impetus for this OU export drive has come from the Open Business School. As the UK attempts to upgrade all levels of its workforce, more and more managers are filling in the gaps in their business education. In terms of short courses for individuals, groups and organisations as well as formal qualifications, there are now 16,000 UK managers taking OU courses, including 900 studying for the MBA.

In December 1989, contact was made through the British

Council with the authorities in Moscow to see in what way the OU could assist in establishing distance teaching systems for managers desperate to become market orientated. The Russians were particularly impressed at the effectiveness of the OU system in retraining managers quickly. Not least, the translated OU system gave a quick and accessible route to retraining the teaching staff in

Czechoslovakian and Russian schemes to the tune of \$800,000 so far. Negotiations are under way with educational and management organisations in Romania, Bulgaria and Poland.

However, there are some words of caution about the idea that we may be on the brink of Open University *frontiers*. First is the problem of quality control. The recruitment, supervision and training of an army of part-time tutors in the United Kingdom may be very difficult to duplicate in other countries. However, telephone links, computer networks and electronic mail may fill certain gaps.

The second problem is, of course, cost. The UK student is subsidised. The European student has to be charged an economic price. Even with a weakened pound this may be a deterrent to a full-scale expansion of English courses in Europe.

Roger Mills, OU pro vice-chancellor, says: "For the past two years we have been very conscious of the concept of a unified Europe and the single market. We are working closely with the open universities in Holland, Spain and

Germany to produce a 'What is Europe' course. Elsewhere, we hope, our ventures will soon be bringing profits of about £1 million a year."

"It is not only in Eastern Europe that there is a demand for our management courses; we are picking up a lot of interest in countries such as Greece and Portugal. In Lisbon we are working closely with the British Council in developing material for the more advanced students to use in their English learning. This could be a very important development."

HUGH THOMPSON



Daniel: an area where Britain leads



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## INFOTECH

# Promise of an immaculate reception

Digital broadcasting should not be ignored as Britain awaits a clearer transmission, **Matthew May reports**

Angry expatriates and people in Britain who are outside the range of the BBC's FM transmitters won a partial victory as the BBC amended plans to drop the present Radio 4 service on long wave. Those who feared that they would no longer be able to hear *The Archers* or the other delights of Radio 4 proper when its long wave frequency turns into a rolling news service will not be switched off until at least April 1994, and are likely to have the option of listening via satellite in the near future.



Satellite vision: the head of BBC engineering, Henry Price

Henry Price, the head of engineering for the BBC. One favoured option is that Radio 4 should use one of the spare sound channels on the UK Gold satellite television channel, a joint venture between the BBC and Thames, which is due to start transmitting on Sunday from the Astra satellite. If Radio 4 does go out on Astra, it will become available to millions more listeners throughout Western Europe, including countries such as Spain and Italy, where the current long wave service is not within range.

"Satellite is a good option because many expatriates living in continental Europe will have bought it to get TV programmes in English," Mr Price says, "and that may even apply to some people in the UK because in some really rural areas where FM reception is not possible, terrestrial television can also be difficult to pick up."

However, some listeners are still angry that satellite is so expensive if they want only Radio 4 and that, because satellite radio needs a dish, it can be heard only at home and not out and about in the car or on personal stereos with radio tuners.

Even this disadvantage could disappear in a few years with the advent of digital broadcasting, due to start in a limited fashion in 1995, which promises interference-free and hiss-free reception with the quality of compact discs.



New horizons: satellite radio and digital transmission will take broadcasting another step away from the wireless

Although digital broadcasting is still at the planning stage, one suggestion is that some broadcasts should be transmitted from several new high-powered satellites so that they could be picked up on ordinary car aerials. This would result in any station — local, national or even global — being able to broadcast throughout Western Europe. Last week the Radio Authority,

which licenses and regulates independent radio in the UK, published a policy statement on why British broadcasters cannot afford to ignore digital broadcasting and how the country should prepare for its introduction.

Describing digital broadcasting, as the single most significant advance in radio transmission technology since FM, the authority

warns that if this development is ignored, radio — and in particular the broadcasting of music — will lack the improving sound quality of other media, such as compact discs and other new digital music systems.

The Radio Authority says that digital broadcasting in Britain will need a temporary "parking band" for several years, starting in 1995,

where it can begin simulcasting broadcasts along with conventional transmissions as people gradually replace their radios with those having digital capability, before taking over most of the existing FM band nearer the end of the decade.

The authority recommends that these temporary frequencies should come from the part of the VHF band that was used for 405 line television transmissions as this should have enough initial capacity to allow for ten to 12 national stations and five or six local ones and ten to 12 in a few important markets such as London.

For listeners, however, the initial cost of digital radios is likely to be high at several hundred pounds, although after about three years this should fall to the equivalent price of a medium quality existing receiver, the authority says.

"The difficulty with all this is that the method of how digital broadcasting is transmitted now needs to be tested. There is at least a year's work before we have the answer to some questions," Mr Price says. "We are planning a digital transmitter for the London area so that we can do real tests on what

transmitter power is needed for places such as London, which will be the most difficult because of the high density of buildings."

The promise of perfect transmission quality through digital broadcasting could bring another problem. While broadcasters are worried that their role in providing high-quality music broadcasts will be lessened if they do not keep up with the move to digital-quality sound, the music industry is starting to be worried about the effects if they do.

The new formats of digital compact cassette and minidisc include the ability for customers to make their own digital recordings. If Europe-wide satellite digital radio takes off as expected, what is to stop stations attracting listeners by broadcasting new compact discs in their entirety, providing listeners with the ability to make a free copy as good as one on sale in the shops?

Others in the industry believe that such broadcasts could be controlled by scrambling digital transmissions so that a listener has to pay to make a recording. Under this system some digital broadcasting could become just a new way of selling music.

For the immediate future, however, people such as Mr Price are more excited about how easy it will be to receive a good signal.

Mr Price says: "Though you can often get very good FM reception with a roof-top aerial, most people are unwilling to do it."

"Digital broadcasting will mean that with a very simple antenna on cars, portable radios or in the home, you will be able to get immaculate reception."

## Survival of the smartest

The supermarket has whittled away the trade of the traditional high street shop and its friendly delivery man in recent decades, but now technology may see the pendulum swing back, say international retailing experts.

By the turn of the century, new technology may have brought an end to the weekly marathon motorway expedition and the scrum of jostling trolleys, by putting in the hand of the local butcher, curtain-maker and grocer a range to rival that of the supermarkets.

This could be a shopping revolution akin to the one in banking that followed the proliferation of cashpoint machines everywhere from airports and museums to railway stations and offices.

The renaissance of the high street is being predicted as a result of the arrival of multi-media terminals: computers able simultaneously to display words, pictures and videos, and controlled by touch-sensitive screens.

Using a system shown at the Retail Solutions '92 exhibition at Olympia, London, earlier this month, shoppers could pop into their local hairdresser, baker or coffee house to call up a basic shopping list of, say, baked beans, butter, milk and cereals.

The screens would be operated by a shopper's personal smart card carrying the list, the shopper's address and bank account details.

Goods would be held not in the high street shop but at a warehouse that might be tens or hundreds of miles away, yet they could be ordered within minutes, leaving customers to ask their fishmonger or butcher about perishable foods

**Nick Nuttall** looks forward to shopping locally — from a computer menu

or browse for more interesting items such as clothes.

The goods would be delivered at a time chosen by the customers on the touch screen, or packaged ready for collection at a convenient site.

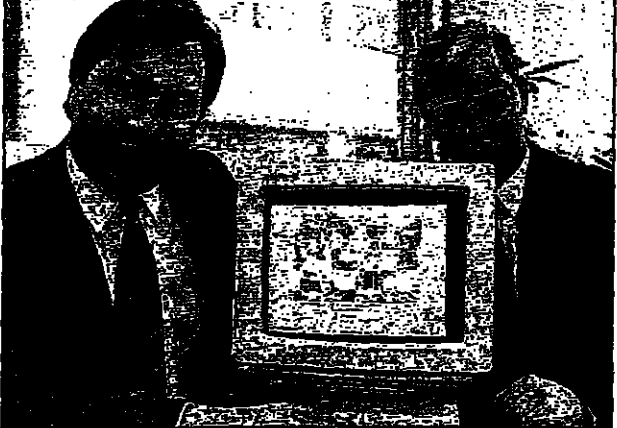
Kevin Duffill, an executive with Andersen Consulting in London, the firm behind the "smart shop" concept, argues that people still like to leave the house to go shopping, but says that this system would eliminate the tedium. In some ways it would revive the once common practice of standing orders for staples at the local grocer with his trusty delivery van.

Mr Duffill says the smart card and screen system would

also offer other benefits. If the customer wants to buy mineral water, for instance, the screen could show the full range of bottled waters held at the warehouse, highlighting prices, new products and any special offers. The system could also give detailed information on each water's mineral content, its geographic source and nutritional value, and the latest advertising commercial could run alongside at the touch of the screen.

The computer-shopping system could also hold a profile of the shopper, based on past purchasing patterns, enabling it to recommend, say, high-fibre cereals if the customer has been identified as a healthy eater.

John Hollis, a partner at Arthur Andersen, envisages the shopping terminals appearing in public places, just like cashpoints. The supermarket may thus become a warehouse or a place where ranges of more specialised goods are sold and detailed advice and information will be given by experts or computers.



John Hollis and Kevin Duffill with the shopping screen

### Pile them high...

CYNICS suggest that computer supermarkets amount to little more than letting customers into a company's mail order warehouse. For PC World, however, it is a strategy that is clearly working as it opens a third superstore in Brentford, west London, tomorrow. A fourth is planned to open at Staples Corner, north London, in three weeks. These join stores in Croydon, Surrey, and Lakeside Thurrock, Essex.

"Most of our customers are second-time buyers who know what they want and expect to be able to just walk in and take

it off the shelf, like a can of beans," says Jan Murray, the chairman of PC World, who claims prices can be up to 30 per cent cheaper than from a conventional computer dealer.

**Phone pact** SWITZERLAND, Germany and the four Scandinavian countries have signed Europe's first pact allowing mobile telephones to be used for international calls between the countries. Once the technical systems are in place, the agreement will allow calls between mobile telephones without international dialling codes, and will ensure that callers are billed on their home account, wherever the call is made from. Other European countries are planning to join

the agreement, starting with France and Italy in 1993.

**Print boost** A SMALL Japanese company has developed a 16-megabyte memory module for Macintosh personal computers that it says can boost the memory capacity of a PC to rival that of a mainframe. The company, Tokyo-based International Scientific, is to start selling the £1,000 module from next week but only in Japan.

Macintosh computers are in great demand among printing companies and graphic designers in Japan because they can handle sophisticated computer graphics and Japanese characters. A larger memory enables them to work on much bigger monitors.

**Hello, over there** THE world's first personal satellite telephone, which will be able to make calls from virtually anywhere on earth, is due to go on sale at the end of the year.

The telephone, which will fit into a briefcase, uses a small satellite dish to make calls via Inmarsat satellites. Tariffs, however, will be substantially higher than for conventional long-distance calls.

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# Progress at a gentle pace

Far from rushing on to the market with all programs blazing, open systems have a lot of ground to make up, David Guest reports

The Apollo space programme's Saturn V rocket travelled from its assembly building to the launch pad on a vehicle that moved at half a mile an hour.

By the standards of the computer industry's move to open systems, it was an Olympic sprinter.

Originally, the idea of open systems was that the different computers of various manufacturers should be able to communicate with each other. Computer systems used to be like rail networks before the acceptance of standard gauge: not only locomotives and rolling stock, but also bridges, tunnels, platforms and so forth had to be designed to each particular scale.

This meant, among other things, that once a company had invested in one kind of computer system, the expense involved in changing to another might be prohibitive. It also inhibited direct transmission of data from one system to another — in the rail analogy, passengers would always have to disembark and take a different train at a regional border.

The open systems effort dates from the late 1970s. It may be a measure of its progress that earlier this year the Department of Trade and Industry still felt it necessary to set up a scheme to help companies get to grips with the standardisation process designed to tackle many of computing's problems.

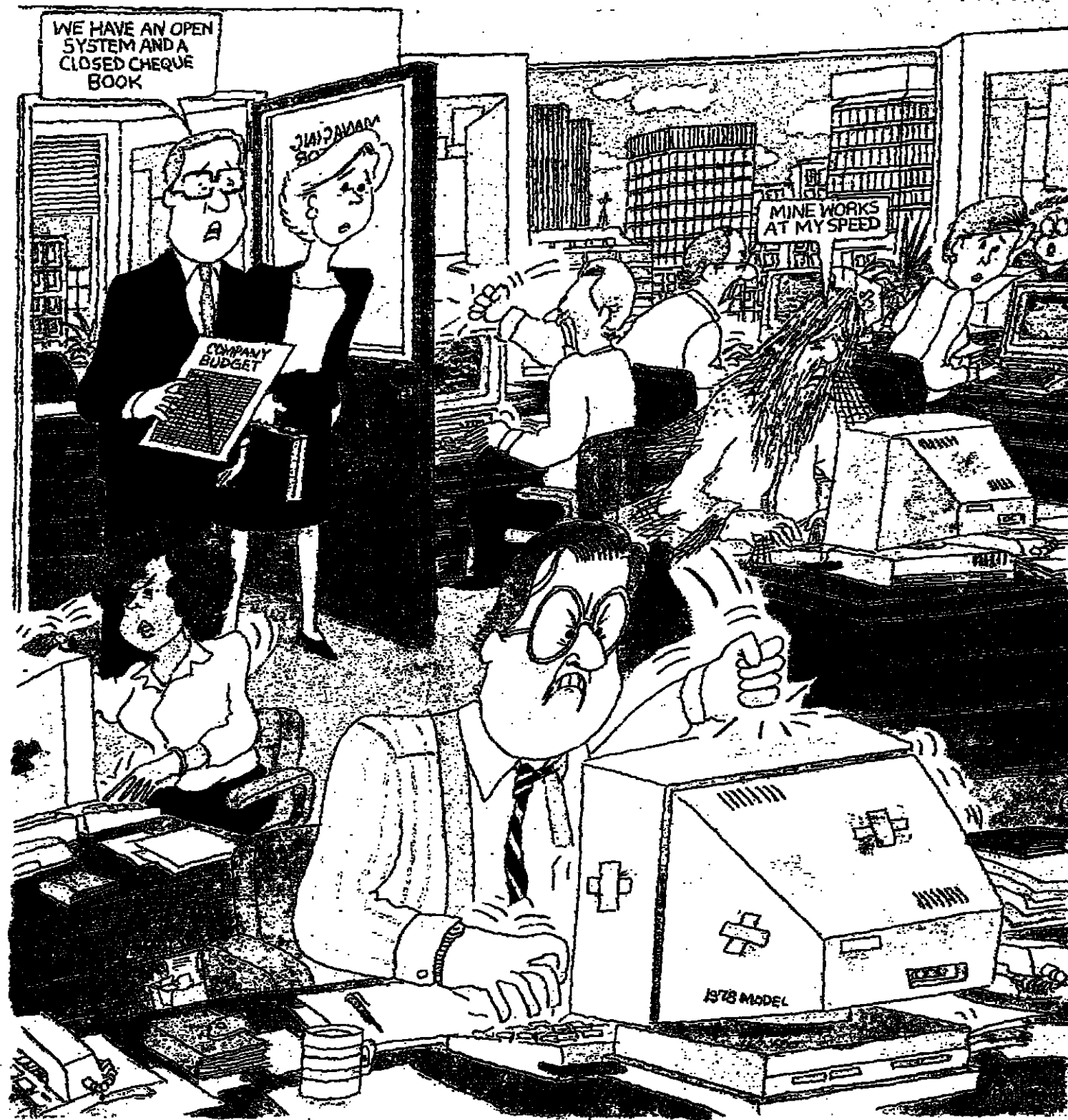
The explanation for the gentle pace of progress has many strands: the shifting definition of open systems, the technical complexity, the motivation of the prime movers, the requirements of computer users, and the contrast between the ideal of open systems and the mundane realities of everyday business operations.

Latterly, the idea has been extended to include the prospect of computer programs running on any kind of computer. Here, the music industry's acceptance of 33 revolutions a minute as a standard speed for LPs provides a comparison.

Computer manufacturers used to set their own speeds, and programs had to be tailored and pressed to suit them.

With an agreed standard, the degree of choice available to computer users suddenly opens out, and because program suppliers do not have to spread their development effort, the products should be cheaper.

While the definition of open systems has grown in one respect, in another it has contracted. The expression is now frequently used to mean



just a single style of computer control — an operating system designed to run on many different brands of computer and known as Unix.

National governments and the EC have championed the use of Unix and the adoption of open systems. The research company Frost & Sullivan expects Unix sales in Europe to reach more than £6 billion this year and by 1996 expects the figure to double. Manufacturers and government are the sectors showing most enthusiasm.

However, a survey of information technology managers by CSC Index earlier this year showed that the

recession has meant that with computing budgets under pressure, strategic objectives such as introducing open systems are taking second place to the routine operational aspects of computing and how to cut costs.

The idea of open systems also applies to personal computers. Because IBM's initial personal computer was an open system — in the sense that the technical details were available to other suppliers to work with — it has become accepted that one brand of personal computer will work in the same fashion as others.

While this was good news for customers, the fact that so many other

companies copied the IBM format robbed IBM of much of its influence. The open systems movement set out intending that something similar would happen in the field of larger computers, but it has had only mixed success.

The promised benefits of open systems are a greater choice of computers, lower costs and a generally easier life. There can be drawbacks, however.

Open systems can be expensive in terms of the cost of specialist staff to implement and run them, while the breadth of choice in hardware and programs is restricted by different

suppliers' interpretations of the standards.

Thus, it may still be more prudent for users to confine their orders to one or two reputable suppliers, which would defeat the object.

Part of the problem, to paraphrase Lord Callaghan's observation about truth and lies, is that an independent computer maker can have its goods in half the world's markets before an international standards authority has its boots on.

● Opens Systems 92, an exhibition and conference, will take place from next Wednesday to Friday at Olympia 2, London. Tickets from 081-984 7733.

## Wider choice for lower cost

Some companies have found that proprietary operating systems are far too restrictive and expensive

One of the advantages of open systems, proponents argue, is that they lead to considerable savings in costs.

Open systems machines often run under an operating system known as Unix, which is supposed to be able to run on all kinds of different makes of hardware.

This frees the customer from the constraints and financial burden of having to run a manufacturer's proprietary operating system, for which they can be charged a licence fee, and from which it is difficult to move programs to other machines without costly rewriting of software.

Many companies have moved successfully from proprietary systems to Unix-based machines, and can demonstrate the savings they have made.

Dillon's, the bookseller, for example, has been expanding its business outlets both by acquisition and by opening new shops. The company has 111 stores in Britain and last year acquired its rival bookstore, Hatchards.

Bob Martin, Dillon's information systems manager, is in no doubt that moving to open systems has saved the company money, although he feels that it is too early to quantify the amount.

Dillon's used to run its stock control and customer service enquiry service on a proprietary minicomputer from ICL, but last year made the move to an open Unix-based system, also from ICL. The machines are installed in 12 sites in the UK, and Mr Martin cites cost savings in two main areas — hardware and software maintenance and support.

The ability of Unix to run across a range of machines from different suppliers gives customers a wider choice of hardware which means that to win an order a company must keep its prices to an absolute minimum.

"With the old minicomputer we were also paying a premium for the support and maintenance of software because it is a proprietary system. The major savings have been in the cost of software licences for the proprietary system and in support," he says.

The change to a Unix-based system brought other benefits, Mr Martin says. "We were rather restricted in terms of staff because the old minicomputer was a dying breed."

But the growth of Unix has meant that there is now a pool of staff skilled in both the operating system and the commercial world.

And while moving any programs from one machine to another requires rewriting some of the code, Mr Martin believes that it is considerably easier with Unix. "It makes the task of changing systems easier," he says, "because moving from one version of Unix to another is a lot easier than moving from an ICL proprietary operating system to an IBM one, for example."

But there are those who continue to question the economic viability of open systems. Carl Chilly, who was formerly an official with an open systems standard group, X Open, and is now a consultant with software house Locust.

"People were told that they could go open systems and choose and mix systems from different suppliers. But when things go wrong, whom do you blame?" he asks. He also points out that many of the newer, more powerful open systems machines coming out to the market are not much cheaper than the old proprietary systems. Open systems can work very well for some companies, but should not be seen as a universal and instant panacea.

SEAN HALLAHAN



Bob Martin: saved money for Dillon's

### Looking for the knockout system?

So, you have decided to cut your computing budget. You are going to rebuild your computer systems so that information becomes that "vital business resource" which everyone says it should be.

You know you need open systems, based on agreed standards, to bring together all the components you need. And that is when you face the awful question — just which open system do you want?

It turns out that there is not a single set of standards, but a whole range. The industry joke is that the wonderful thing about standards, is that there are so many to choose from. For customers, however, it is no joke. An incorrect decision can trap them in an expensive dead end.

Typically, the conflict is between an "official" standard laid down by the standards bodies, and an "industry" standard that may have emerged from a single vendor and been copied by others or a consortium or even a group of users.

In communications, for example, while the standards for open systems interconnection (OSI) have been developed by international standards bodies, the rival Internet standards were developed on academic research networks. And while the industry has been struggling to establish a single version of the Unix operating system, the giant software company Microsoft is preparing what will be a new competitor — the NT operating system.

There may be no knockout punch. "I think one just has to face the fact that open systems will be a combination of *de facto* or industry standards as well as *de jure* or official standards," Roger Toms, of Surrey County Council, says. "It is far too expensive to throw away the investment you have already made."

### Guiding rules taking too long to set up

In communications, that is certainly the case. The OSI standards have been in development since the late 1970s and are part of many governments' purchasing policies. Directives in the United States and Europe insist that public sector computer systems use these official standards where appropriate, and the bigger

There is no single set of standards, but a whole range which compete with each other

network suppliers support them heavily.

And yet more than a million computers are linked to the worldwide Internet — a loose-knit collection of academic and business networks which developed its own standards, with US government support, before OSI was available. The standards have become very popular both for personal computer networks and Unix machines, with the basic capabilities of Internet honed by extensive use.

Any set of communications standards must include a portfolio of protocols to handle different jobs, from electronic mail to file transfer. The OSI protocols are usually seen as more capable, but the Internet alterna-

tives have two important advantages — they are available, and they work. When OSI products are available as an alternative, they are more expensive.

"It is taking OSI a lot longer than anyone thought to move to the forefront," says Dick Boyle, of the Gartner Group, the market research company which expects it to be at least a couple of years before users leave Internet standards in large numbers.

The coming battle between Unix and Microsoft's NT is as yet a phoney war, because NT is not yet available. The development of Unix was, until recently, the scene of unseemly squabbles between suppliers over which version of Unix should be the "standard". Now most suppliers have reached agreement, only to find that Unix is about face its biggest challenge.

Although Unix has had some success with larger computer systems, it has failed to make inroads into the PC market for business people. When Microsoft begins delivering its NT operating system next year, it will have a big advantage — it has millions of potential users who are using PCs running other Microsoft products.

NT will be presented as an upgrade for the popular picture-based Windows product. Software developers believe it will happen. Five thousand of them attended a conference in San Francisco earlier this year, and the influential *Byte* computer magazine headed its report on NT "Is Unix dead?"

The answer is no, but Unix is likely to be relegated only to larger computer systems with several users. The dream of open systems that cover the smallest to largest computers is likely to remain just that — a dream.

PETER JUDGE

## Here's one we wrote earlier

Being able to run software on new and faster hardware should make open systems attractive to managers



Branching out: Alan Smith was disappointed with his firm's mainframe computer

Taunton Cider's presses can handle many different kinds of apple in producing the company's fizzy drink. Awkwardly, its computer is much more choosy.

When the company acquired a mainframe computer in the mid-1980s, it planned to buy most of the programs it needed off the shelf, and develop a few specialised applications in-house.

But the strategy proved a disappointment. Alan Smith, head of the company's IT, says: "We found the proprietary mainframe greatly restricted our choice of applications packages, while program development tools failed to boost software production as much as we had hoped."

Instead of being able to buy four-fifths of the programs needed, Taunton Cider found itself employing contract programmers to help write more than half the applications.

The company was determined not to make the same mistake again when it began to look for a new computer system to support growth plans after a stock-exchange flotation in July this year.

Open systems seemed the ideal solution thanks to the wealth of programs available. Moreover, experience with personal computers had taught the company how to play hardware suppliers off against each other.

"We could drive down costs by choosing an application first then going to different hardware manufacturers to see if they could offer something that would run it faster at the right price," Mr Smith says.

Taunton Cider is not the only organisation to have spotted the benefits of open systems. From government departments and multinational corporations to small businesses and educational institutions, some computer users are forcing the pace by insisting that suppliers conform to open standards.

Most users now have far more investment tied up in their software than the cost of the computers themselves. Software therefore has to last much longer than the machines on which it is initially designed to run — which makes open systems very attractive, thanks to their promise that the same programs will work on new and faster machines.

Standardisation can also protect users' skills, with staff no longer needing to learn a fresh set of commands and controls for new software with each new machine. But computer users are proceeding carefully. "Open systems are not something we want to jump into," Mr Smith says. So far he has applied the technology only to sales information, a non-critical area of the business.

The main problems have been in linking the new open computer systems to the company's existing 150 PCs.

"The link from PCs to open systems is not a near bridge," Mr Smith says. "The software to get the two working together is only just emerging and this is the area where open systems are falling down at the moment."

Getting to grips with the complexity of the "open" operating system used by Unix has also proved time-consuming. "When you load software on to a PC, it tends to configure itself automatically to whatever hardware you are using. But because Unix is so flexible, you have many more options. Setting these up can be very time-consuming."

Another problem for users is knowing where to turn when things go wrong. "With proprietary systems you can point the finger at whoever is responsible. But with open systems, the hardware supplier might blame the

software, or the Unix vendor might say a fault lies with the application software. The problem is that there are not yet enough standards in place," Mr Smith says.

Ensuring that the systems work together is the big opportunity for hardware suppliers, says Jean-Claude Monney, European director for open systems marketing at Digital Equipment (DEC). Many manufacturers are worried that standardisation will lead to a price war, with little to distinguish their machines from those of their rivals.

Mr Monney says the suppliers need to become electronic architects, skilled at interconnecting equipment from a range of manufacturers. "Open systems are built, not bought. What the users really want is somebody to take responsibility for making the whole system work."

The problem is not just one of getting different brands of computers to talk to each other, but of persuading the applications software to communicate.

Take a company that has developed personnel software on IBM and a payroll on Hewlett-Packard. With an open system, both applications should be able to exchange information.

"People are becoming locked into applications just as they were locked into proprietary systems," Mr Monney says. The answer is "middleware" — software which bridges the gap and brings consistency to the user. Industry experts believe this will be one of the industry's biggest battlefields in the 1990s.

Europeans have been quick to grasp the importance of open systems. They have grown up with different currencies, languages and the fact that your calculator plug does not work in other countries. The US is much less sensitive to the benefits of standards," Mr Monney says.

In a recession, another potential advantage of open systems is the ability to cost-justify individual applications more accurately. By dividing functions between separate boxes Mr Smith expects to be able to measure more easily which programs are of greatest benefit to the business.

And unlike mainframes, a network of distributed open systems can avoid applications slowing each other down. In the past Taunton Cider, for example, has found that a big run on financial reports can seriously hamper the computer's response time for a totally unrelated activity such as telecalls.

"We don't want to be committed to open systems until they've proved they have worked. But we've had 90 per cent success so far and do not seem to be hitting any brick walls," Mr Smith says.

JANE BIRD

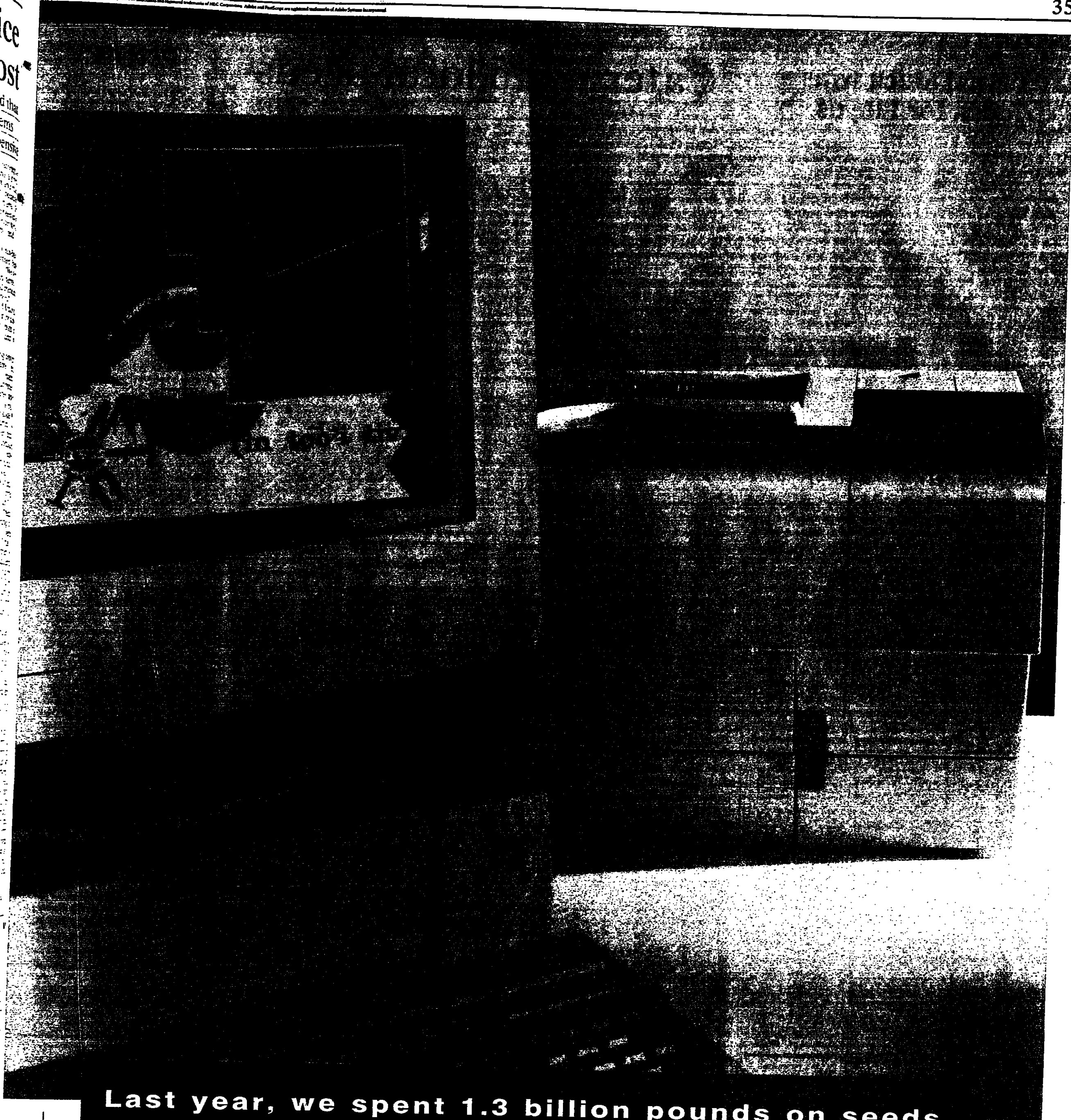


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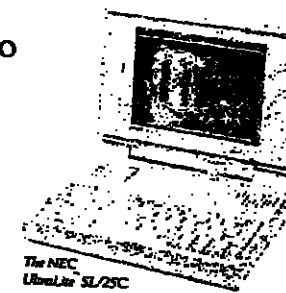


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**NEC**









**THEATRE page 38**  
The Wooster Group put  
Chekhov through the  
mangle in Glasgow, with  
engrossing results

# ARTS

**DANCE page 39**  
Choreographer  
Jonathan Burrows is  
determined to rewrite  
the ballet rulebook



**VISUAL ART: Richard Cork considers the significance of the £20,000 Turner Prize, and surveys this year's shortlist**

**R**esurrected last year after a hiatus, Britain's most talked-about and richly-endowed award for the visual arts has now come round again. Armed for the second time with £20,000 from Channel 4, the Turner Prize can buy its recipient a welcome amount of studio rent and artist's materials.

Now that the market for art has suffered such a slump, the cash benefit should certainly not be scoffed at. Nor should the exposure conferred by next Tuesday's Channel 4 film on the four shortlisted artists — as well as the Tate

Gallery's exhibition of their work, opening the following day. But what does the bestowal of the Turner Prize actually mean, in terms of prestige and substantial achievement properly acknowledged? The answer, I am afraid, has been desperately confused since the award began in 1984.

At the outset, it was intended to hail "the greatest contribution to art in Britain". But after Malcolm Morley astonished everyone by landing the first Turner Prize, a failure of nerve began to assail the organisers. The definition was modified, so that it now referred merely to "an outstanding contribu-

tion", as if to account for the awkward fact that neither of our two finest artists — Francis Bacon and Henry Moore — ever won the award.

In 1991 a dramatic attempt was made to shift the goal-posts yet again. Artists over the age of 50 were ruled out altogether, and three young contenders

who had only recently left college were shortlisted. They made the fourth, Anish Kapoor, look absurdly old at the age of 37. I was relieved when Kapoor won, for the Turner Prize was in danger of deteriorating into a wunderkind ghetto. This year's jurors, however, appear to have recognised the problem.

Apart from including the *enfant terrible* Damien Hirst, who is only 27, they have opted for rather more mature individuals. And my own hope is that Alison Wilding, a distinguished but long-undervalued 44-year-old, will carry off the honours on November 24.

● Work by the four artists on this year's Turner Prize shortlist can be seen in an exhibition at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (071-821 7128), from next Wednesday until November 29. Admission is free

## On prize-winning form

**ALISON WILDING**  
Born 1948, studied at Ravensbourne College of Art and the Royal College of Art

**A**lthough Wilding is less well-known than other, Turner Prize-winning sculptors of her generation, she revealed the full extent of her achievement in a memorable double exhibition last year. At the Tate Gallery in Liverpool, a selection of her work over the past decade showed her sensitive command of an unusually wide range of materials, along with a supple ability to move from the miniature to the monolithic.

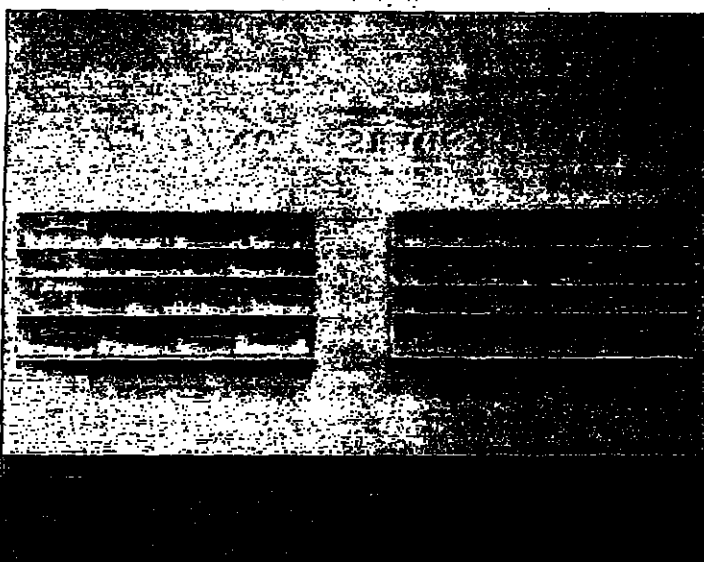
In *Scree*, Wilding restricts herself to a small copper vessel hung on the wall. The blue and grey pigment heaped inside threatens to spill out, giving the work a sense of tension and danger which also enlivens her larger work.

Wilding's art is riddled with dualities. At first glance serene and ordered, her work turns out to hinge on conflict. Nowhere more arrestingly than in *Assembly*, an outstanding part of her other 1991 show at the Henry Moore Sculpture Trust Studio in Halifax. Re-

exhibited now at the Turner Prize exhibition, it contrasts a dour steel tower with a criss-cross structure of glowing amber-coloured PVC slats. The confrontation between solidity and transparency, darkness and light is staged with great intensity, and Wilding leaves the outcome open, as ever, to question.



An unresolved confrontation between solidity and transparency: Alison Wilding's *Assembly*, 1991, contrasts a dour steel tower with a criss-cross structure of glowing amber-coloured PVC slats



Damien Hirst: *I Want You Because I Can't Have You*, 1992

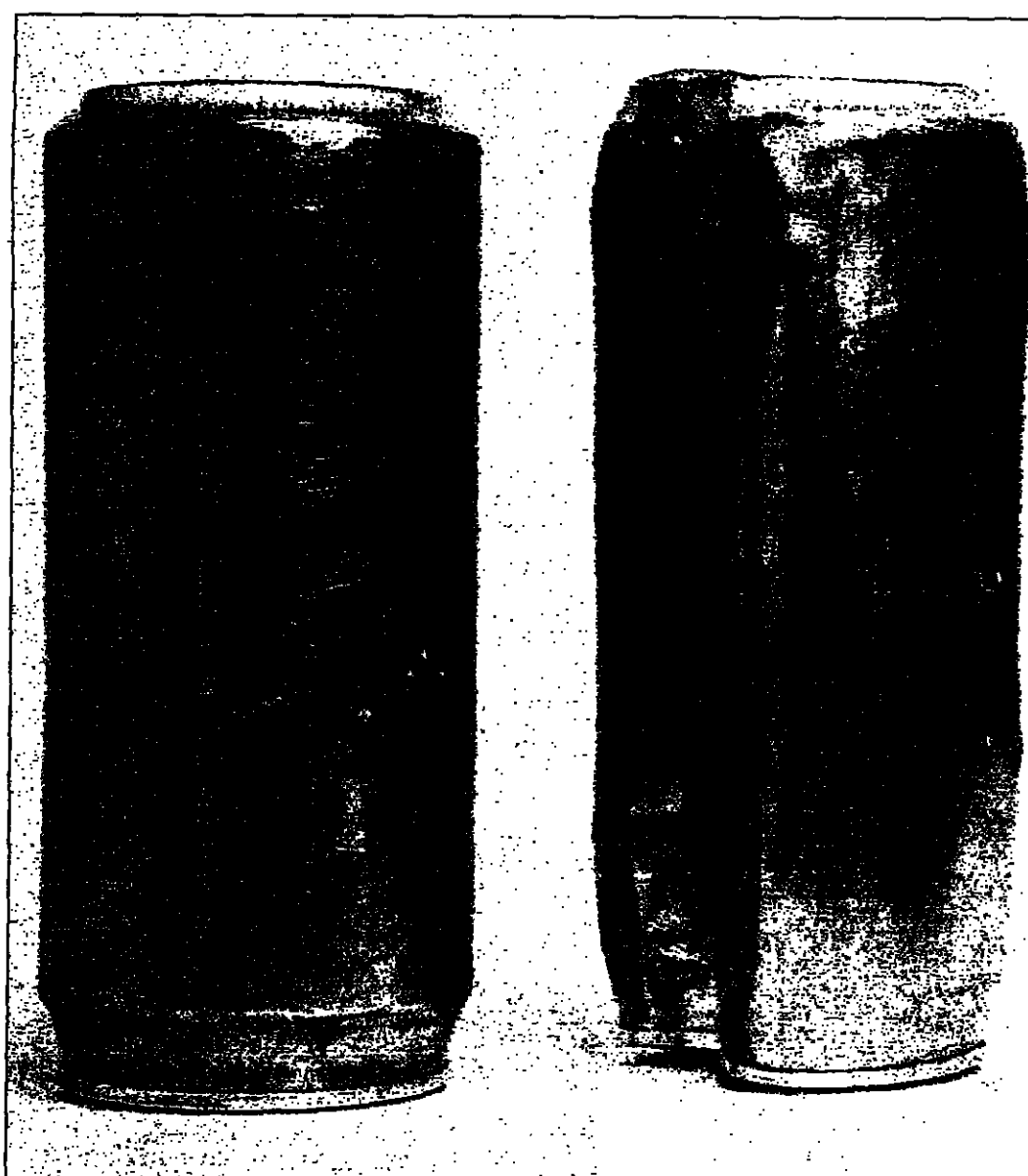
**DAMIEN HIRST**  
Born 1965, studied at Leeds School of Art and Goldsmith's College

**A**lthough Hirst claims that "I don't believe I'm going to die", his work is obsessed with mortality. For a young man who only graduated from college in 1989, such a preoccupation may seem surprising. But Hirst's fascination with transience is countered by a wry sense of humour. And he makes sure that his observations on the remorseless cycle of life are presented with a tough-minded rigour which prevents them from sliding into self-indulgence.

Hirst's humour is most tellingly deployed in his titles. When he exhibited a wall-full of dead fish, each one isolated from its neighbours inside a box of formaldehyde, Hirst called the work *Isolated*

*Elements Swimming in the Same Direction for the Purpose of Understanding*. And one of his exhibits at the Tate, where a group of fish hopelessly pursues another, is entitled *I Want You Because I Can't Have You*.

As the words imply, Hirst is fascinated by the parallels between the fish's futile dilemma and human behaviour. He comes close to autobiographical concerns in *The Acquired Inability to Escape*, an immense double cube sculpture in glass and steel where the paraphernalia of a cigarette addict is laid out on a bleak office table. Drugs and pills make frequent appearances in his art, often displayed on glass shelves like the contents of a medicine cabinet. But his fish works remain his best-known. His most notoriously a 14-foot tiger shark suspended in a tank with the title *The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living*.



Objects that hover between function and abstraction: maquette of Grenville Davey's *Hal*, 1992

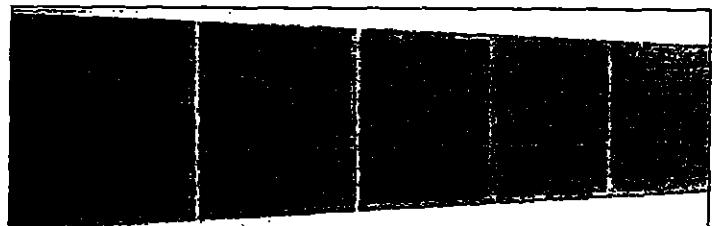
**GRENVILLE DAVEY**

Born 1961, studied at Exeter College of Art and Goldsmith's College, London

**D**avey exhibits at London's Lisson Gallery, which already boasts three Turner Prize-winners: Richard Deacon (1987), Tony Cragg (1988) and Anish Kapoor (1991). Like them, Davey is a sculptor, and it might be tempting to regard him as a member of the same "school". But Davey is his own man, a cool and refined individual who operates on the borderline between functional objects and abstract forms with an independent life.

At times, his sculpture bears a tantalising resemblance to wing-mirrors, teeth or saucerpan lids. But it has no real function. Instead, it inhabits a quirky, teasing position. Even as Davey refers to the world of everyday appearances, he reserves the right to explore a more mysterious region where abstraction holds sway.

His forms never become rarefied. Davey ensures that, however exquisite they may seem, these severely simplified objects are not cut off from late 20th-century industrialised reality. As a result, they have an enigmatic presence. While Davey's sculpture invites us to identify its starting-point in the observable world, he always keeps the viewer guessing.



David Tremlett: detail of *Work in 15 parts (from 15 years)*, 1990

**DAVID TREMLLETT**

Born 1945, studied at Falmouth School of Art, Birmingham College of Art and the Royal College of Art

**T**he most elusive of the artists on the shortlist, Tremlett has spent much time travelling since he graduated in 1969. But he should not be confused with Richard Long, who is the same age and also centres his work on extended journeys. Unlike Long, Tremlett concentrates on buildings and the spaces they contain. Sometimes, cheap hotels and

bars attract Tremlett's attention. More recently, ruined buildings have dominated his interest, and in the Tate show he bases a large wall-drawing on a cluster of derelict coastal villas he discovered two years ago in Tanzania.

The drawings Tremlett executes in the buildings themselves are left behind to deteriorate. As for the drawings he makes in galleries, they are covered over once the exhibition ends. Their ephemerality is reinforced by the medium: pastel. So the true permanence of Tremlett's work lies in the governing idea, a priority which proves that he retains links with the Conceptual Art of his youth.

## Season of northern delights

### ARTS BRIEFING

THE largest selection of Scandinavian films ever mounted in Britain unfolds next month at the Barbican Cinema in London. Sven Nykvist's visually exquisite directing debut *The Ox* opens proceedings on November 11; but the season stretches back to Victor Sjöström's stark 1916 film of Ibsen's poem *Terje Vigen*. Twenty-five Bergman films are revived; there is also new work by Aki Kaurismäki, and Liv Ullmann's directing debut, *Sofie*. No film event is ever complete without something ridiculous, so here it is: *Abba: The Movie*, made in 1977, long before its director, Lasse Hallström, became the respectable creator of *My Life As A Dog*. "Scandinavian Cinema 1916-1992", part of the Barbican Centre's "Tender is the North" series, runs until December 13 (071-638 8891).

TO CAPITALISE on the spectacular success of *Tubular Bells II*, Mike Oldfield will be performing

the work at the Albert Hall (071-589 8212) from April 5-8, 1993. The album, which was premiered last month at a televised performance at Edinburgh Castle (a video is now available), has already sold a million copies and remains in the UK Top 10 two months after its release. Tickets for the Albert Hall shows go on sale today.

The success of *Tubular Bells II* suggests that rock could shortly be gripped by the kind of "sequel fever" that has bedevilled the film industry.

Jeff Wayne's *Spartacus*, a follow-up to his 1978 classic *War Of The Worlds*, is already at hand, and this week Neil Young releases *Harvest Moon*, described by his record company as a "natural successor" to his chart-topping 1972 album *Harvest*. And then there is always the prospect of a Mexican sequel to look forward to: plans have been announced for a follow-up to Mentloof's 1978 epic *Bar Out Of Hell*. The proposed new title? *Back Into Hell*.

### Last chance . . .

ANYONE seeking a pithy description of the Texas-born blues pianist Katie Webster need only glance at the titles of two of her previous albums: *Swamp Boogie Queen* and *Two Fisted Mama*. Her most recent recording, *No Foolin'* (re-leased, like the others, on the Alligator label), continued the winning formula of earthy boogie-woogie and playful vocals. A larger than life performer, Webster plays the two last dates of her British tour at The Concorde Club, Brighton (0273 606460) tonight and The King's Hotel, Newport (0633 842020) tomorrow.

● **BILL JACKLIN:** If attaining the age of 50 is the qualification for a mid-life retrospective, Jacklin has just barely arrived in the right class. The retrospective will open in Oxford on Sunday, but meanwhile there are two interconnected shows in London of his most recent work, which finds him applying his strong sense of pattern (consistent from his Minimalist beginnings) to the beach life of Coney Island. Prints and paintings, sometimes sunny, sometimes menacing.

● **KLAUS FRIEDEBERGER:** The chequered career of a refugee from Hitler has somewhat obscured Friedeberger's development, including as it did periods as an internee in England and Australia after teenage years spent in Holland. However, since his return to London in 1950 he has worked steadily towards his own highly individual style of almost mono-

chromatic abstraction. This retrospective, 1942-92, marking his seventieth birthday, enables us to see how he got there, by way of a Forty-ish neo-Romanticism and a very sensitive feeling for colour carried over into his current palette of black, white and grey.

● **DAVID ROBILIARD:** A poet-painter who died of Aids in 1988, at the age of 36, Robiliard slightly resembles American graffiti artists, with his primitive-looking designs and bold use of daubed inscriptions. No doubt his fate has attracted more attention than might otherwise have been his, but this show indicates a genuine talent.

Foyer Galleries, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 3002) daily 10am-10pm, until November 29.

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THEATRE: Harold Pinter is acting in his play *No Man's Land*. Matt Wolf meets the director

## Put the playwright in his place

Pinter acting Pinter is the obvious selling point of the Almeida Theatre's new production of *No Man's Land*, but something equally significant is happening offstage as well: the author's continuing collaboration with a young director, 34-year-old David Leveaux, who looks set to redefine this dramatist for the Nineties no less markedly than Peter Hall did for the Sixties and Seventies.

Leveaux made a dazzling Pinter debut at the same theatre last year, asserting the painful emotional weight of *Betrayal* against those detractors who thought the three-hander slightly trivial. Instead the play seemed achingly passionate and honest, its title a prism for all manner of reflections on language, feeling and the chasm that often lies between them.

Charges of triviality have never beset *No Man's Land* — if anything, Pinter's 1975 play is considered famously impenetrable — but Leveaux again is quick to identify the passion in a dramatist known for cerebration. To be sure, Spooner's final remarks speak of an "icy and silent" landscape, but Leveaux insists upon an authorial terrain that is anything but.

"The play appears to engage in a process towards death of a kind, towards a point of no movement, non-drama. But its momentum lies in a character, Hirst, fighting for his life. He's a man whose skill, whose craft, whose ability to create fantasy, is unleashed briefly in the last moment before he dies. That's what makes the play energetic."

Two theatrical knights, Gielgud and Richardson, played Spooner and Hirst in the National Theatre premiere in what was to be a final collaboration in a celebrated acting life together. This time, the duo consists of Paul Eddington and Pinter himself, the latter speaking his own lines for the first time anywhere since a 1985 Los Angeles *Old Times*.

— and the first time in Britain since the 1969 Watford *Homecoming*.

While some might balk at explicating the architecture of a play to its master builder, Leveaux remains undaunted. "Harold's very open-handed. Once you're directing one of his plays, that's it. He's not at all interventionist."

Besides, the director argues, the casting should dispel the formidable shadows cast by the roles' originators. "Harold participating helps — not as a gimmick but as a charismatic presence. And because the play is about a writer or poet seeming gradually to be defeated or exhausted, there's an authentic resonance from Harold playing his own play."

Leveaux, who grew up in Derby one of the four children of a dancer and a doctor, has little time for notions of Pinter-as-enigma. "Harold hasn't set a puzzle so that you have to read Wittgenstein to enjoy his own play." Leveaux, who was a Manchester University English graduate, assisting Peter Gill and then David Gothard at west London's Riverside Studios. There, in 1983, Leveaux directed his breakthrough production of Eugene O'Neill's *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, which travelled to Harvard and to Broadway. The play didn't flourish in New York, but Leveaux's career did. He and his star, Kate Nelligan, had been lauded by the *New York Times*, and the director found himself with a Tony nomination, a high-powered agent and a bewildering surfeit of attention.

Phone calls followed from Britain

"This is a humanist play, not some cold philosophical exercise"



David Leveaux: he says of Pinter, "Harold's very open-handed. He's not at all interventionist"

but, Leveaux remembers, "not one person offered me a job". So he took an offer from Bertold Brecht's daughter to direct Strindberg's *Dance of Death* in East Berlin, remaining there for almost two years. Subsequent stints followed off-Broadway with plays by Martin Sherman (*Messiah*) and Edna O'Brien (*Virgin*), as well as an eye-catching National Theatre debut in 1988, directing Strindberg's *The Father*. The RSC beckoned three years later

with a studio theatre *Tis Pity She's A Whore*, alongside a main stage *Romeo and Juliet* that drew critical fire.

"I have lived with these messages sent to me: 'Talented young director can do Pinter; doesn't have a clue about Shakespeare,'" says Leveaux. "The only thing I can put it down to is that I hadn't come out of anybody's team and if you don't, in England, there's trouble."

The scenario suits Leveaux's desire

"not to be tied contractually to a certain outfit", and allows for maximum freedom. In December he goes to Broadway to direct Natasha Richardson and Liam Neeson in *Anna Christie*. Next year he'll spend five months in Japan where he has forged a productive relationship with Tokyo's Shochiku Theatre.

● *No Man's Land* is in preview tonight and tomorrow at the Almeida Theatre (071-359 4404), Islington, London N1 and opens there on Monday

## TELEVISION REVIEW

## Plenty of jobs for the boys abroad

Critical Eye  
Channel 4

There is a view that the English football hooligan is not merely a horrible job prepared, like the worst of his heroes, to kick anything that moves. Instead, we are told that he is part of an organisation, a quasi-military set-up with individuals responsible for planning, weaponry and transport. The theory would be merely amusing, were it not held by the police.

Last night's *Wake Up England* was a film made during the European Championships in Sweden, the tournament from which England returned having drawn with all the teams except the ones to which they lost. The hoolis did better: played three, won three. In Malmö, Göteborg and Stockholm, they filled their glasses, emptied them down their throats and chucked them at the populace.

Criminologists interviewed last night dispute the police theory, believing that this is just an ad hoc gathering of riff-raff. It seems a likelier story, but the more colourful newspapers assist the police view by promulgating conspiracy theories under lurid headlines. The police set up "football intelligence" units, perhaps the only context in which the words football and intelligence could share the same sentence.

The programme was interesting, if necessarily inconclusive. It is to be commended for accepting its own evidence via a late U-turn (so fashionable of late). Much of the time it appeared to be trying to show that hooliganism is caused by bad organisation, brutal policemen, a ludicrous system of distributing tickets, social deprivation: the usual suspects. In the end it gave up. The conclusion, as in the song from *West Side Story*, was that these guys are depraved on account of they're depraved.

But why the English? The Scots in Sweden had a few bevies, but refrained from

pouring them over anyone's head. It appears that the Scots had taken their sense of humour with them, always handy given the team they follow. They also took their wives, girlfriends and children. For them it was a holiday with a focus. They do not seem to be intrinsically better than the English; indeed one English fan had a passable joke of his own: "England haven't scored and neither have I."

But in general the Scots have what the English lack: a sense of proportion and a desire to get something out by putting something in. For the English, it was an invasion, the occupation of territory held by others. As the tournament ended, there were graphic scenes: the Scots celebrating with their German conquerors, the English sullenly separate, staring. There are other hooligans, notably the Dutch. But the English are the past masters and unfortunately they sail under a flag of convenience, the Union Jack. One of the more bizarre sights last night was a gathering of the mob in the centre of Göteborg, chanting "no surrender to the IRA". A rabble declaiming about a rabble, wearing the national flag for underpants.

The programme lacked a home base, but perhaps that is another programme. For the English football hooligan is at large other than on Saturdays. He barges you off pavements and out of queues. He is ugly and threatening and stupid. He says his behaviour is our fault, but a man who points a finger has three fingers pointing back at himself. He is to blame: why do we have to pay?

PETER BARNARD

DANCE: Choreographer Jonathan Burrows interviewed; Stephen Petronio Company and flamenco reviewed

## Moving beyond dance

John Percival meets an ex-Royal Ballet soloist who is now making works that reject most of the conventions by which dance performances are usually defined

For a man who has given up a safe job as one of the Royal Ballet's best soloists to start his own group in troubled times, Jonathan Burrows looks remarkably cheerful. At least he is making all the decisions himself for his new work. Very, which opens at The Place tonight. These include giving up one of the four dancers he had originally planned, and one of the two musicians, so that he could afford to allow himself a three-month rehearsal period.

The Royal Ballet must think him a pretty ungrateful wretch. After all, they spotted him as a potential choreographer while he was still a student, and gave him his first professional commission in 1980, less than a year after graduation. But the company's eagerness to find and develop new creative talent does not always go with understanding how to achieve it.

Burrows worries about "a mystique that choreographers are special creatures who have to be born, not made". He was plunged into responsibility for making ballets without much time to develop his craft, found it all too much, and clammed up after four years.

The new start, when it came, was on completely different lines, working meticulously with small casts of like-minded fellow dancers in their spare

time, showing the result only when ready. He took more than two years developing *Hymns*, ending with a two-part dance for five men, using a minimum of movement (but not "minimalism") to convey a disrespectfully observant attitude to certain types of conventional behaviour.

In this and two subsequent works for his group, *dull morning* and *Stones*, Burrows revealed a highly original use of movement. But he does not have much time for the idea of movement as the over-riding constituent of a dancework. Struggling carefully to define it, he lights on the word "picture" to explain the concept that he tries to keep in mind. He resists verbal explanation of the works, but the action has its own logic for the viewer to read. As for the movement, "you have to be able to treat it roughly at times: it must be strong enough for that." In *Very* he let the composer, Matteo Fargion, conduct some rehearsals and direct the movement.

For *Very* his collaborators are two dancers from the Royal Ballet, Lynne Bristow and Deborah Jones, and Fargion, playing and singing on stage, and taking part in the action. They have all worked together before. Burrows thought "it would be absurd not to take advantage of the knowledge we have built up of each other, and how we operate."

No surprise that he finds that helpful, considering the

mixture of ferocity, gentleness, anguish, and humour he packs beneath the outward calm of his pieces. But for his next project, he intends to audition dancers in Budapest, Paris, Brussels and London.

He has as iconoclastic an attitude to music as he has to movement. "I discovered that the relation between movement and music was nothing like so complex and mysterious as it is supposed to be. If you watch a video of a hockey

game, and play music at the same time, eventually they will be playing hockey to music.

"People might say that we've had ballet, contemporary, new dance, post-modern, minimalism, performance art, physical theatre — there is nothing left. But only from this point can the real potentials of the form be realised."

He does not see himself putting on his works for other companies, although Sylvie Guillem has asked him to

create a piece for her. He does not even want his group to do any of the past works again: "Dance exists only while it is being performed. It should be done at the time, with the people who worked on it, then forgotten. Maybe something can be preserved on video — but then it's video, not dance."

Then he has a second thought: "But if that principle had been applied to *Les Noces*, which I think one of the greatest danceworks produced in this century, I would never have seen it." He smiles, ruefully. Clearly, Burrows is a man brave enough to follow his own path, but reflective enough to change his mind.

● The Jonathan Burrows Group is at The Place Theatre, 17 Duke's Road, London WC1 (071-387 0031) tonight and tomorrow, 8pm



Burrows: "The relation between movement and music is not as complex and mysterious as is supposed"

## After so long, far from the rite stuff

Stephen Petronio  
QEH

HOW long can previews last? The new work which Stephen Petronio brought to the Queen Elizabeth Hall this week was given in New York last May, but will not have its official premiere until next April in Amsterdam because the Music Theatre there commissioned it.

Actually the basis of the choreography goes back further: in part to a work, *Laytext*, that Petronio made for the Berlin Ballet in part to a version of the *Rite of Spring* on which he and Michael Clark collaborated last year, under the title *Wrong Wrong*.

We have seen, meanwhile, how Clark eventually got *Rite* right on his own: Petronio calls his new piece *Half Wrong with Laytext*, and half wrong might seem an understatement. The programme promises live music by Stravinsky, and the score did manage to survive the pummeling inflicted by the rock-style amplification applied to the piano fearfully pounded on stage by Christopher Swinburn and Gruffydd Owen.

Half way through, however, the live music gives way to

what I must suppose is dead music, by Mitchell Läger, taped noises through which the playing of the pianists only slowly and gradually re-emerges. There is a salacious and spurious announcement about horrors to come, and obscene messages are projected on the backcloth.

Petronio has plenty of idiosyncratic movement to go with this. But when his abrupt, disjointed and aggressive choreographic style is applied to Stravinsky, it becomes only fragmentarily relevant to the music.

Fair enough that he puts the sacrificial victim, a nearly nude woman, at the beginning instead of the end, and that she is soon removed to allow a much more abstract development. But he seems far too often trying to reproduce artificially the genuine shock that surrounded the original premiere of *Rite*.

Then, unexpectedly, Petronio runs up the white flag. The dancers lie down and the stage is darkened, with light only on the two pianists at the back as they play the music's finale. It reminds us that Stravinsky will still be going strong when all his wrongdoers are forgotten.

JOHN PERCIVAL

Ballet Teatro  
Español  
Sadler's Wells

OVER the decades flamenco, that most spontaneous and intimate of folk dances, has been transmuted into a theatrical spectacle. Spanish dance connoisseurs complain that it has, as a result, reached an all-time low. But the transformation continues apace, of which Rafael Aguilar's Ballet Teatro Español is the latest example to reach London, where the company is playing at Sadler's Wells Theatre.

Aguilar also trained in classical ballet, but he seems to choose modern dance to extend his Spanish vocabulary. The lunge and deep squats in the programme's first two pieces, *El Rango* and *Bohéro*, owe a great deal to Graham technique, bringing a little variety to a limited range of movement.

*El Rango*, accompanied by Gregorian chants as well as traditional flamenco guitar and song, begins with a prolonged section of repressed foot percussion that resembles an inscrutable dialogue in more code between a grim mother figure (danced by

Mamuela Aguilar, the choreographer's wife) and her five daughters. An evocation of Lorca's play *The House of Bernarda Alba*, the ending makes little sense when the rebel daughter (Eva Morenol) suddenly dies without apparent cause or obvious perpetrator.

Ravel's *Bohéro* sets massed dancers in fetching red and black stamping and clapping round the central bare-torsoed figure of Victor Muro, all inflamed postures, feverish hands and rotating pelvis. Ravel's score always tends to produce that kind of choreography and audiences never fail to respond in an enthusiastic manner.

Ballet Teatro Español looks young and disciplined, able to perform with wonderful unity in the many group passages. These also appear in the closing *Antología de Flamenco*, a selection of dance and song, glossily presented and choreographed.

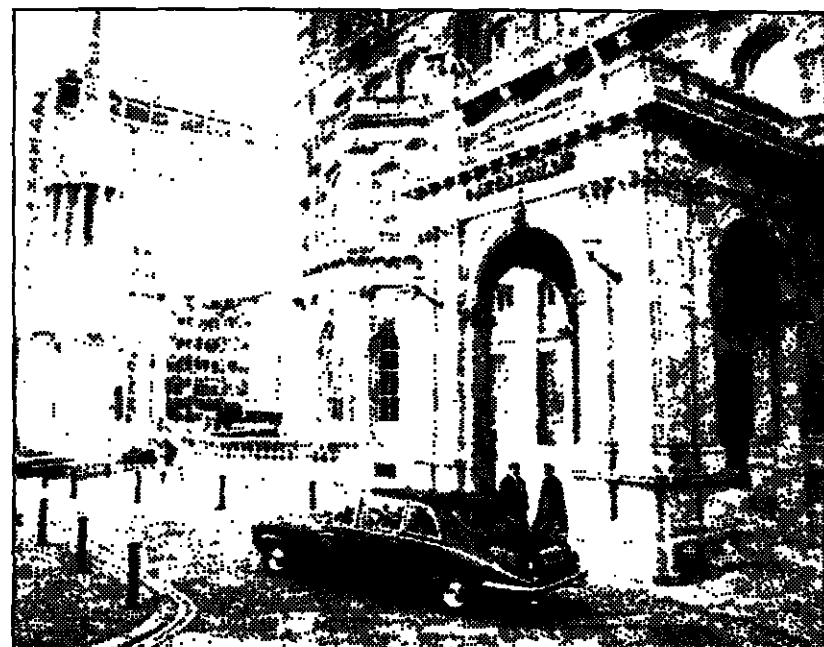
Spaniards, of course, have the right to alter their own arts. But it seems to be that by emptying flamenco of its impulsiveness they are robbing it of its central spirit, leaving a lifeless shell of rather monotonous movement.

NADINE MEISNER

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## Landowner to regain winning thread

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a jockey in a crouched position on a horse. The jockey is wearing a cap and silks, and the number 5 is visible on the leg. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost stencil-like quality.

### Stumbling block: Sheikh Albadou threatens Cardmania's Breeders' Cup Sprint hopes

**Rainbow Corner** ran well when second to Mellottie in a listed race here earlier this month, his first run for Henry Cecil since moving from Andre Fabre in France. That form suggests he can resume winning ways in the James Seymour Stakes.

The Clive Britain-trained Spartan Shareef could be the principal danger, particularly as he receives 4lb from Rainbow Corner. He won a listed race at York last month but his best efforts have been on soft ground, a remark which also applies to Revif.

However, for the nap I go to Bangor and Le Piccolage in the Corbett Bookmakers Handicap Chase. He began last season with wins in good-class novice chases at Ascot and Newbury but on his two subsequent starts his jumping betrayed him and he fell on both occasions.

Despite those blots on his record, there is little doubt that Le Picolage has a future over fences and his trainer, Nicky Henderson, is confident that he has the eight-year-old in good heart for his seasonal **boost**.

In an intriguing race for the Jones Peckover Novices' Chase, Jenny Pitman's smart hurdler **Egypt Mill Prince** is taken to make the most of the 7lb he receives from Arctic Skylight.

At Wetherby, the day's other National Hunt meeting, Merry Master appeals in the Go Racing In Yorkshire Handicap Chase. He began the season with a ten-length win from Wrekin Hill over this course and distance earlier this month and can defy a 5lb rise in the handicap.

## Johnston filly makes it four

The improving daughter of Risk Me next attempts to extend her sequence in the Armistice Handicap at Doncaster tomorrow week with either Michael Roberts or John Reid aboard.

Roberts, twice successful on  
batter at Pontefract, missed out  
here as he could not confirm  
his availability early enough,  
so Reid, in the plate at  
Therbury, took over again.

Sir Harry Hardman forced the pace and refused to buckle when headed entering the final furlong, but Branston Abby, with only hands and heels assistance, maintained her neck advantage to the line.

Francis Lee and Willie Carson gained compensation for Sir Harry Hardman's near miss when Coolaba Prince, one of five in the firing line a furlong out in the Nottingham

Autumn Handicap, found a little extra to beat Take It In Cash by three-quarters of a length.

Carson completed a double with the promising Azzili, trained by John Dunlop, in division one of the Netherfield Maiden Stakes.

Despite their small number of horses the Merediths have had a good year. Eighteen of their 31 runners have finished in the money. "Because we do most of the work ourselves we can make it pay. "We bought a property in February and a couple of yearlings which we will break in. I am trying to encourage English owners to have horses here," Helen said.

If Cardmania obliges tomorrow, owners of all nationalities will surely be beating a path to El Monte.

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## WINTER HERBY

**MANDARIN**  
 1.30 Carson City, 2.00 King Of The Lot, 2.30 Merry Master, 3.00 The Rambling Man, 3.30 River Pearl, 4.00 Dale Park.

**THUNDERER**  
 1.30 Musthaveswag, 2.00 Deep Sensation, 2.30 All Jeff, 3.00 Chuck Curry, 3.30 Fairways On Target, 4.00 Affair Of Honour.

**RICARD EVANS: 2.00 KING OF THE LOT (hap).**

**GEORGE: GOOD SIS**

## 3.00 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,505; 2m) (18)

1	ASTINES Army Phlogist 4-11-0	M	10	ASTINES Army Phlogist 4-11-0	M
2	10- CHUCK CUMLEY 21-1-0	B	9	CHUCK CUMLEY 21-1-0	B
3	OT THE ME (Gandy) 4-11-0	0	8	EASTHROP 16-1-0	0
4	EASTHROP 16-1-0	0	7	EASTHROP 16-1-0	0
5	00-3 PERINS HALL 15-1-0	0	6	PERINS HALL 15-1-0	0
6	HARRIS CASTLE 14-1-0	0	5	HARRIS CASTLE 14-1-0	0
7	HIGH ALTITUDE 21-1-0	0	4	HIGH ALTITUDE 21-1-0	0
8	00R- NUDDY 10-1-0	0	3	NUDDY 10-1-0	0
9	OT THE ME (Gandy) 4-11-0	0	2	OT THE ME (Gandy) 4-11-0	0
10	ASTINES Army Phlogist 4-11-0	0	1	ASTINES Army Phlogist 4-11-0	0
11	MORALITY MAN 1-0-0	0	10	MORALITY MAN 1-0-0	0
12	FLICK PUNTER 16-1-0	0	9	FLICK PUNTER 16-1-0	0
13	5F SUPPOSE 15-1-0	0	8	SUPPOSE 15-1-0	0
14	30-0 THE RAMBLING MAN 16-1-0	0	7	THE RAMBLING MAN 16-1-0	0
15	TOPFORMER 22-1-0	0	6	TOPFORMER 22-1-0	0
16	17-1 TRILL ALONG 23-1-0	0	5	TRILL ALONG 23-1-0	0
17	00- UNCLE-LAD 20-1-0	0	4	UNCLE-LAD 20-1-0	0
18	00- YOUNG PANDOR 15-1-0	0	3	YOUNG PANDOR 15-1-0	0

2-1 Oatley, 7-21 Hays, 10-11 Jackson, 11-1 Farnes Hall, 10-1 The Rambling Man, 10-11 Punter, 12-1 Easthrop, 16-1 others

<b>10</b>				<b>ERF RED LODGE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O &amp; 3; \$2,420; 6f) (20 runners)</b>			
(1)	AWDRUK (R. Haddock) J. Curren 9-0	J. Winger (B)					
(2)	AWDUN (R. Haddock) J. Curren 9-0	D. E. Ellis (B)					
(3)	CALL ME BLUE (J. J. Redmond) 7 Hapgood 9-0	S. Carter (Z)	72				
(4)	CHIEF'S SON 26 (J. Haddock) 8 Hills 9-0	D. Holland (B)					
(5)	IRRAWADDIE 14 (W. Feltus Jr.) 3 Lutz 3-0	Paul Esterly (B)	94				
(6)	GAZARD (R. Haddock) W. Feltus 9-0	W. Casson (B)					
(7)	KARAGE 24 (J. J. Redmond) 8 Hills 9-0	D. Doyle (Z)					
(8)	LEAR KING (T. Yates) 8 Harnwood 9-0	M. Posner (B)					
(9)	LEAFMOTT (Graham) Haddock J. Curren 9-0	S. Chastain (B)					
(10)	NORTHERN REED 13 (Lund) White (H) L. Curren 9-0	J. Fontaine (B)	89				
(11)	POLESTAR (R. Haddock) J. Curren 9-0	J. Fontaine (B)					
(12)	BESSIE THE FORCE 105 (S. O'Leary) 3 Cypre 9-0	M. Roberts (B)					
(13)	ROBARI (R. Haddock) 8 Harnwood 9-0	Deen McKinnon (B)					
(14)	JOULIAN (P. Winkler) 5 Harnwood 9-0	W. Rhodes (B)					
(15)	PERNIX (J. J. Redmond) 11 Squire 9-0	D. Duffield (B)					
(16)	SOLD CHIEFTEN 29 (R. Schmidt-Decker) M. Tompkins 9-0	P. Robinson (B)					
(17)	ALTA VICTORIA (J. J. Redmond) 8 Chastain 9-0	W. Ryan (B)					
(18)	FREELY SHALE (G. Barry) 8 Ellis 9-0	J. Curren (B)					
(19)	WITEL AL. GAZARD (R. Haddock) 8 Hills 9-0	J. Curren (B)					
(20)	TRAVELER (J. J. Redmond) 11 Squire 9-0	J. Curren (B)					
(21)	TRAVELER (J. J. Redmond) 11 Squire 9-0	J. Curren (B)					
TIME: 9-4 Decimated, 4-7 Lustrous, 1-2 J. Winger, 1-1 Mike Al. Garris, 6-1 Chief's Son, 10-1 others.							
1991: SOLD MEMORY 9-0 1-2 J. Winger, 15-0-0 D. Elliott 7 m							

[illegible][illegible]

## FORM FOCUS

**DOM** GWS 6th of 16 to Stand In Race in a contest at Haverhill (Q-1) last, **CHIEFS SOUND** 5th of 17 to Meet **Conquest** in a 2nd race at Haverhill (Q-2) last, **NORTHERN BRED** 10th of 16 to Stand in a consolation race here (Q-1) good to slow.

**SOLD** **CHARLTON** 15th 8th of 13 to Rank in a maiden at Haverhill (Q-2) good to slowly, with **BARKERS 2** 1st of 14, **FRANKIE'S** 4th of 14 to Follow in a maiden over course and distance (Q-2) to Follow in **Stakes**, **OFFMANNING**.

### 40 SADDLE HOUSE STAKES (2-Y-G: E\$4347: 1m) (9 runners)

(2)	021: RANKS 10 (S) (H-Jackson) C Ranked 9-10	W Curren	95
(4)	020: BURNIT MAP 9 (J-Richmond) W Ranked 8-10	R Playwood	94
(6)	006: COMMUNIQUE CHARGE 5 (S-Shelton) L Ranked 8-10	M Polinsky	89
(3)	017: EUTEL 10 to 10 (S-Gibson) C Ranked 8-10	L Nafisi	86
(5)	009: KARMAKAP K Atchley 8 (Shelton) 8-10	J Feltore	85
(1)	001: PLUMBER PUG (Shelton) Metropolitan 1 C Ranked 8-10	J Feltore	84
(8)	007: RIVER DUNING H (Shelton) L Unranked 8-10	M Polinsky	83
(7)	014: SIBABA 22 (Smith) H Unranked 8-10	S Cadden	80
(9)	030: YORK HILL 34 (Rood) P Unranked 8-10	Gay Melville	78

**TRAC:** 4-2 Shabas, 5-1 Rada, 12-3 Rada, 14-1 Mount River, York Hill, 12-1 River Shabas, York Hill, 15-1 Shabas.

**1991: HILL GUTTER 8-10 Fast Entry 9-11 Mills J Cautl 14 m**

## FORM FOCUS

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

## BANGOR

**MANDARIN**  
2.20 Reillon. 1.50 LE PICCOLLE (nep). 2.20 Egypt  
Mr Prince. 2.50 Suez Canal. 3.20 Dundrums. 3.50  
Ive Action.

**THUNDER**  
2.20 Regal Romper. 1.50 Gold Haven. 2.20 Arctic  
Lightfoot. 2.50 Suez Canal. 3.20 Sheriff's Band. 3.50  
Ive Action.

**HOING: GOOD** **SIS**

**1.20 OXTON TURF CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS**  
(5:40; 1.27; 2m (10 runners))

1-5.00 DANMART 11 (6.5) Mr L. Siddle 8-1-7 W Alton  
2-3.34 JAMESTOWN BOY 22 (B.U.F.F. 8) P Prince 4-11-4 R Davis  
3-3.01 BELTON 17 (6) J Parker 5-11-4 J Lundy 5  
4-3.07 BATTLE STANDBY 10 (5) S. Siddle 5-11-1 J Lundy 5  
5-3.00

## 2.50 RUTHIN JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

(3-7-0; 21.814; 2m (1) (15))

1 AIR SUPREMACY 360F S Conlay 10-12 R Davis 7  
2 BE MY HABITAT 15 Miss L. Siddle 10-12 A McGuire  
3 P ROTHAM 330 Miss M. Wynne 10-12

4 CRIPST OUP 10 (5) J. Siddle 10-12 D J. Heston 7  
5 CRIPST OUP 10 (5) J. Siddle 10-12 Mr A. Wynne  
6 DOLLAR WINE 17 J. Siddle 10-12 D. Barry 7

7 ORCH SUPREMACY 360 S. Siddle 10-12  
8 SILVER FOR SURE J. Conlay 10-12 T. Bay 7  
9 SUEZ CANAL 20 J. Siddle 10-12 L. Lundy  
10 THURLOW 30 J. Siddle 10-12 A. McGuire

11 THUNDER 220 F. W. Wynne 10-12 P. McGuire  
12 ESSEN HATCH 20 H. Prince 10-7 D. Wynne  
13 LAGUNATE LADY M. Conlay 10-7 D. Wynne

14 SHAWNA MARE 53F Miss H. Knight 10-7 J. O'Connell  
15 TULWAR PRINCESS 20 W. Clay 10-7 E. Wynne

5-7 De-Chin, 7-2 Tyeon Duns, 4-1 Thymel, 5-1 Suez Canal, 8-1 others.

## 3.20 MOLD NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(22.554; 3m 10yds) (13)

1 33F CAPTAIN 200F 33 (5) R. Siddle 6-1-9 Mr M. Alton  
2 40F ANOTHER DUTY 220 (5) S. Siddle 6-1-9 Mr M. Alton

[illegible][illegible]

6	901	REAL POWER 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 4-11-11	4 D Taster 5
6	902	SPRING FORWARD 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 4-11-11	4 D Taster 5
6	903	SEASON 22 (D) 5/10 S Points 4-11-11	4 D Taster 5
6	904	72318 15 6 Points 8-10-12	3 J Taster 5
6	905	PEVING CHAMPION 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 4-11-11	4 J Taster 5
6	906	WELDON DONG 32 D Caster 4-10-11	7 Taster 5
4 Janssen 30, 5-2; Nigel Roper, 4-1; Rollins, 3-2; Betty Standard, 1-15			
4 Janssen, 30-1; others			
<b>3.50 CORREY BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP CHASE</b>			
33,555-25 2m 41 (110yd) (7)			
2	1-PW	INFLUENCE 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 10-11-13	5 W Master 5
2	2-PW	TRIP NAME 8 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	5 J Taster 5
2	2-14	SADIE DOR 18 (D) 5/10 S Points 7-9-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-15	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-16	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-17	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-18	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-19	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-20	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-21	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-22	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-23	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-24	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-25	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-26	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-27	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-28	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-29	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-30	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-31	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-32	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-33	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-34	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-35	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-36	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-37	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-38	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-39	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-40	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-41	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-42	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-43	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-44	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-45	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-46	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-47	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-48	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-49	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-50	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-51	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-52	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-53	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-54	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-55	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-56	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-57	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-58	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-59	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-60	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-61	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-62	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-63	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-64	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-65	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-66	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points 11-11-10	4 D Master 5
2	2-67	THE BURNING 10 (D) 5/10 S Points	

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**COURSE SPECIALISTS**

TRAINERS: G. Richards, 26 winners from 98 runners, 26.9%, 4; Bailey, 4 from 14, 28.6%; Upton, 4 from 19, 21.1%; McKeown, 3; Knight, 5 from 24, 20.8%; J. A. Graham, 3 from 28, 10.7%; G. Jones, 1 from 16, 6.2%.

JOCKEYS: J. Sheppard, 4 from 8, 57.5%; A. Mearns, 3; Knight, 13, 23.9%; J. Harvey, 5 from 28, 17.9%; S. W. Clegg, 1 from 28, 3.6%; J. L. Williams, 1 from 14, 7.1%; J. Laidley, 12 from 39, 30.8%.

## Johnston filly makes it four

The improving daughter of Risk Me next attempts to extend her sequence in the Armistice Handicap at Doncaster tomorrow week with either Michael Roberts or John Reid aboard.

Roberts, twice successful on  
her at Pontefract, missed out  
here as he could not confirm  
his availability early enough,  
so Reid, in the plate at  
Therbury, took over again.

Sir Harry Hardman forced the pace and refused to buckle when headed entering the final furlong, but Branton Abby, with only hands and heels assistance, maintained her neck advantage to the line.

Francis Lee and Willie Carson gained compensation for Sir Harry Hardman's near miss when Coolaba Prince, one of five in the firing line a furlong out in the Nottingham

Autumn Handicap, found a little extra to beat Take It In Cash by three-quarters of a length.

Carson completed a double with the promising Azzili, trained by John Dunlop, in division one of the Netherfield Maiden Stakes.

## Breeders given little comfort on VAT

The prime minister's reply to a question in the Commons on the government's VAT policy from Alf Morris, the MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe, suggests that change is unlikely to be forthcoming in the immediate future.

He said: "The government recognises the regional economic importance of the foodstock industry. My right honourable friend the paymaster general [Sir John Cope] has worked hard with industry representatives to ensure that it is not significantly disadvantaged by the continued difference in VAT rates between member states."

"The introduction of the flat rate farmers' scheme and a 0.75 per cent cut in betting duty in the 1992 Budget will help secure the right environment in which the industry can compete successfully."

"Ministers receive many well-argued cases for tax relief, many of which appear at least as deserving of a reduced rate as bloodstock. The government believes that its long-standing policy of a VAT system based on a zero rate and a single positive rate is simple for all traders and cheap to administer."







## 43

## CHANNEL

- 6.00 *Cartoons* (41108) 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (49437)
- 9.00 *You Bet Your Life* American game show (r) (27382)
- 9.30 *Schools* (50505)
- 12.00 *The Big Game Programme* presented by Anne Perkins (14818)
- 12.30 *Sesame Street* (53450) 1.30 *The Herbs* (9482721) 1.45 *The Clangers* (8489726)
- 2.00 *Film: Strange Cargo* (1940, b/w) starring Carl Gable and Joan Crawford. The Crawford scene continues with this heady melodrama about a woman on the run with eight desperadoes from New Wand, among them a charismatic Christ-like character (an Hunter) who has a profound effect on the group. Directed by Frank Borzage (4825294)
- 4.05 *Film: The Playhouse* (1921, b/w). A Buster Keaton silent about a one-man vaudeville show. Directed by Buster Keaton and Eddie Cline (6129540)
- 4.30 *The Time Machine*. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz (s) (214)
- 5.00 *Cutting Edge: Breakdown*. A documentary about the work of a North London psychiatric "flying squad" (r). (Teletext) (8108)
- 6.00 *Blossom*. American domestic comedy (s) (479)
- 6.30 *Happy Days*. Comedy set in 1950s Milwaukee. (Teletext) (289)
- 7.00 *Channel 4 News* with Desmond Murrengham and Zinaab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather (411687) 7.50 *First Session* (32749)
- 8.00 *Brookside*. Suburban Merseyside soap. (Teletext) (6336)
- 8.30 *Four-Milefions*. Two animations and a look at how they were made (r) (7052)
- 9.00 *Spirit of Trees*. The second in a series of eight programmes in which Irish broadcaster and environmentalist Dick Warner explores the trees of Britain. (Teletext) (5082)
- 9.30 *Chances*. Following a television sponsorship, Sam returns to his playboy ways while Diane takes a lover. Starring Ted Danson and Shelley Long. (Teletext) (53395)
- 10.00 *Nurses*. Black comedy set in a Miami hospital. (Teletext) (s) (15547)
- 10.30 *Cele Anderson Talks Back*. With Lord Parsonson, David Bailey and Joanne Lumley (s) (32053)
- 11.00 *The Word*. The first of a new series of the youth programme, featuring a new cast including "The Real" and "The Play" and "The

Lamar: The guests include Vanessa Paradis and Nene Cherry (s) (597486)



Blending in with his surroundings: Woody Allen (12.10am)

**0.00m Film:** Zelig (1983, b/w).  
**.5** CHOICE: Critics tend to divide into those who see Zelig as a Woody Allen masterpiece and those who dismiss it as a trick. But even the doubters must concede that Allen at less than his best is still better than most. Mooted in style, ambitious in theme, the film charts in quasi-documentary style the life of Leonard Zelig (Allen) during the 1930s and 1940s. As Zelig reveals to his psychiatrist (Mia Farrow), he is scarred by a childhood incident which gives him a compulsion to efface his own personality and blend in with the company around him. To this chameleon theme is added a discourse on the blurring of fact and fiction as technical wizardry enables Zelig to become whatever he needs to survive. From Roosevelt and Hitler, to add a further layer, Susan Sontag, Saul Bellow and Bruno Bettelheim turn up as themselves. (198152S)  
**.35** The Twilight Zone: Showdown with Rance McGrew (b/w). A tale of the supernatural starring Larry Blyden (465894A)  
**2.00** American Football: Play Action. Mick Luckhurst and Gary Intyre review the week's news and look forward to the weekend's games (67073). Ends at 2:30

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5.00 Long Rally Ch

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AT SIMPSON'S  
MID-SEASON SALE  
YOU CAN GET  
TWO CASHMERE  
JACKETS  
FOR THE PRICE  
OF ONE.

Simpson's mid-season sale goes on till 7th November, and pricing on a wide variety of ladies' and gentlemen's apparel has gone completely haywire. For example, some ladies' cashmere coats are practically half price and the same applies to several men's jackets. While such lunacy prevails, why not treat yourself to a brace? One small word of advice though — wear one at a time, particularly when indoors.

**DAKS | Simpson**

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## Athletics catches up with Mussabini at long last

BY DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

TOMORROW, 65 years after his death, Sam Mussabini is to be honoured for his services to British athletics coaching. Mussabini was the mentor to Harold Abrahams, winner of the 100 metres at the 1924 Olympic Games, and the drama of their relationship was central to the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire* (Ian Holm as Mussabini, Ben Cross as Abrahams).

Mussabini will receive recognition from the coaching awards scheme begun by Frank Dick, the chief national coach, and sponsored by Post Office Counters.

Mussabini, whose background in professional sprinting at the end of the last century made him unpopular with the establishment, did not, in fact, see Abrahams win his gold medal. In *Chariots of Fire*, Mussabini is shown in a room near the stadium while the final unfolds, learning of his charge's victory only when the national anthem is played.

Arthur Porritt, now Lord Porritt, who took the bronze medal, recalled yesterday: "I think it was that professional trainers were not allowed in."

Mussabini was to some extent an early 1920s eccentric. For one thing, "he always seemed to be wearing too many clothes", his fellow Polytechnic Harrier, Arthur

Winter, wrote. Nor was he orthodox as a coach. "His methods were quite out of the ordinary, more concerned with starting and finishing than running," Lord Porritt, 92, said.

When the award is presented in Coventry, Mussabini will be described as "the father of British coaching". But how sound were his methods? Porritt was convinced by him but Tom McNab, a coach and technical adviser to the film, is less sure.

Abrahams had said: "My training sessions consisted largely of perfecting the start and practising arm action over and over again. "We paid infinite attention

to my length of stride. I shall always believe that the vital factor in my running in Paris was that, by conscientious training, I had managed to shorten my stride an inch or two."

McNab, though crediting Mussabini as "very knowledgeable for his time", describes as "ludicrous" the cross-arm action he favoured. Arms should be kept low, bent at the elbows and angled across the body, Mussabini insisted.

Mussabini, half Arab, half French, encouraged the use of hand-held cords to grip, raise tension and thus provide a more powerful arm action.

McNab, however, says: "Springing has to be relaxed

power. You want hands to be relaxed."

He was the first coach to use slow motion cine-film. Lt Col F. A. M. Webster, co-founder of the English summer school for athletes in 1934, wrote of him: "He had an analytical brain, the coaching eye and the genius of a scientist or psychiatrist for analysing what was going on in the body or the brain of an athlete."

The last words of Mussabini to Abrahams before the Olympic final were hardly those of an eccentric. "Only think of two things," he said. "The report of the pistol and the tape. When you hear the one, just run like hell until you break the other."



Coach with the golden touch: Abrahams trains under Mussabini's watchful eye

## More disciplinary problems for Arsenal

## Graham is asked by police to clean up his act

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

GEORGE Graham, the Arsenal manager, was asked by police to curb his language on Wednesday night at the Baseball Ground, where the Premier League side drew 1-1 with Derby County in a Coca-Cola Cup tie. A torrent of expletives were delivered from the Arsenal bench and Graham was involved in an angry exchange with a police officer at the start of the second half.

Superintendent Roy Bradley, the match commander in charge of security, said yesterday: "It was necessary to ask some of the Arsenal entourage sitting in the dug-out to curb

their language. But it was nothing more than that and there will be no further action taken. As far as I am aware, there have been no complaints from the public."

More worryingly from Graham's viewpoint, Arsenal players collected three more yellow cards, taking their number of bookings for the season to 27. Graham has demanded "more meanness" from his team and it seems the players are taking the request literally.

Tony Adams, the captain, and David Hillier could both count themselves fortunate not

to be sent off for cynical tackles. But Graham was unperturbed. "There was a lot of physical stuff flying about, but it was only what we expected," he said.

During his tenure at Highbury, Graham, regarded as a strict disciplinarian, has been no stranger to controversy. He was fined by the club when the team had two points deducted by the Football League following a mass brawl during a match against Manchester United two seasons ago. Arsenal players had been involved in a similar skirmish during an earlier game against Norwich City.

Gordon Durie, the Tottenham Hotspur and Scotland forward, banned for three games by the Football Association for allegedly feigning injury, yesterday lodged an appeal against his suspension. The ban was due to start on Monday, but will be set aside until the appeal is held next month.

David Speedie, the Southampton forward who is on loan to Birmingham City, elected for trial by jury on a charge of assaulting a supporter when he appeared before Derby magistrates yesterday.

Alex Ferguson is the latest high-profile manager to face disciplinary action over alleged remarks made to a referee. The FA yesterday confirmed that the Manchester United manager faced a misconduct charge for comments made to the Liverpool referee, John Richardson, during a reserve-team match against Sunderland on October 1.

Earlier this week, the Liverpool manager, Graeme Souness, was given a five-match touchline ban by UEFA for "extremely abusive conduct" to a Swedish referee during his side's 4-2 European Cup Winners' Cup defeat by Spartak Moscow. Souness has until midnight tonight to lodge an appeal.

The Preston referee, Jim Parker, faces an enquiry after a complaint that he swore at a West Bromwich Albion player during a game against Stoke City on September 19. Parker has been suspended by the Football League until the hearing on November 12.



Eyeball to eyeball: Ruddock, left, and Lewis in unblinking confrontation at yesterday's conference to publicise their heavyweight bout

## Lewis wins good marks for verbal sparring

BY SRIKUMAR SEN  
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

IF LENNOX Lewis can stay as cool in the ring when he meets Donovan "Razor" Ruddock in the final world heavyweight boxing eliminator at Earls Court in the early hours of Sunday morning as he was at the customary "face-to-face" yesterday, he should come out the winner by a distance.

The basement of the White House at Regent's Park, where the two protagonists met, was more like the black hole of Calcutta, so packed was the conference room with pressmen, television crews, photographers and gatecrashers.

As the verbal punch-up intensified, Ruddock became so hot under his collar, both

figuratively and literally, that he had to strip off his sponsor's jacket and get down to his "Razor" Ruddock T-shirt. Lewis remained unruffled throughout the stuffiest hour of anyone's life in his blue suit and cream and blue tie.

The nose-to-nose revealed that Lewis was taller by a good two inches and had a smaller head; but Ruddock had a thicker neck. For the rest, it was the good old-fashioned verbal set-to one can never take seriously, stage managed most of the time, earnest at other moments but always good humoured.

Ruddock opened by demanding that Lewis should have a steroid test. Lewis refused to obey. "My contract says everybody must have a steroid test. He should have a

steroid test," Ruddock said. As he leaned across the table, his biceps and pecs put his T-shirt under considerable stress.

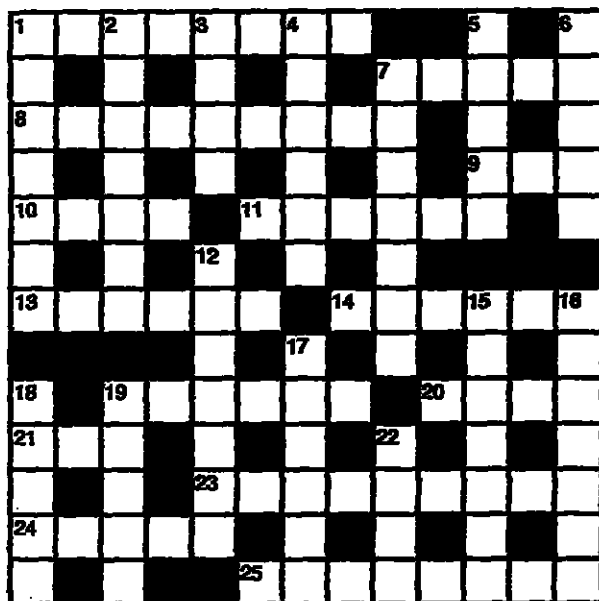
"Are you saying I take steroids?" Lewis asked looking trim and most unsteroid-like. "I just want everything to be up and up," Ruddock said in that engaging Jamaican voice. "I don't want anyone in the ring cheating. I've taken the Aids test when I haven't got Aids. I want you to take the steroid test."

It did not matter to Ruddock that steroids were not banned by the World Boxing Council, which is the supervising body. Ruddock insisted on Lewis being tested and suggested that he should go out and use a bottle forthwith. "Relax your mind," Lewis said. "It's been done with the

boxing board." But the last blow was landed by Ruddock. He recalled that the two bouts with Mike Tyson had not affected him adversely because a year later he knocked out Phil Jackson, previously 25-0, in four rounds. Lewis countered,

dropping his guard. "It's quite easy to beat up ex-sparring partners," the Englishman said. Ruddock brought down the knockout blow. "Oh, it's easy to beat up sparring partners? You used to be my sparring partner," Lewis admitted he had been floored.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2932



## ACROSS

- 1 Break free (3,5)
- 7 Golf (5)
- 8 US Football championship (5,4)
- 9 For every (3)
- 10 Pain cry (4)
- 11 Fish hawk (6)
- 12 Egg yolk (6)
- 14 Insult (6)
- 15 Verse (6)
- 20 Impure film (4)
- 21 Make mistake (3)
- 23 Not sure (9)
- 24 Arrange (3,2)
- 25 Striking (8)

## DOWN

- 1 Care (7)
- 2 Contemporary (7)
- 3 Nasty giant (4)
- 4 Liverpoolian (6)
- 5 Joyful (5)
- 6 Assure (5)
- 7 Make plain (7)
- 12 Conceal (5,2)
- 15 Beguile (7)
- 16 Fendish (7)
- 17 Clinging bullet (6)
- 18 Exalt as god (5)
- 19 Vague (5)
- 22 Baby carriage (4)

## SOLUTIONS TO NO 2931

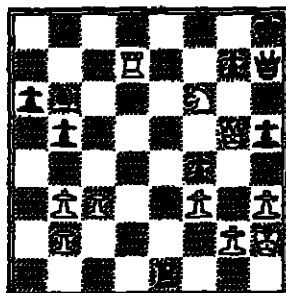
ACROSS: 7 Gobi 8 True blue 9 Temple 10 Trashy 11 Fade 12 Grandeur 15 Sketched 17 Wide 18 Chough 21 Escort 22 Emphatic 23 Ed

DOWN: 1 Comeback 2 Simple 3 Strength 4 Lust 5 Aboard 6 Bush 13 Audience 14 Underpin 16 Touchy 17 Wicked 19 Hump 20 Hate

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Kreschner - Laue, Ašenach 1951. Here white can capture the black queen, which is usually a good idea. Is that the case here?



Solution below.

Solution: capturing the queen would allow black a draw by 1... Bxc2 2 Rxc2. Instead 1 Qx5 wins, the main point being

## Electronic line judges get call

BY ANDREW LONGMORE  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE age of electronic line-calling came a step closer yesterday. After tests on four courts at the recent United States Open, the Tennis Electronic Lines (TEL) system will be installed on the three show courts for the Australian Open next January.

If the experiment proves successful, the system could be used fully at a grand slam event within two or three years. Geoff Pollard, the president of Tennis Australia, said. The only officials needed to work with the new system would be the chair umpire and judges for the net-cord and the foot fault.

TEL, developed in Adelaide, uses sensors under the court to monitor an area approximately a foot either side of the line. Metal particles in the rubber core of the ball disturb a magnetic field, to produce a signal transmitted to a

computer held by the umpire. The computer even makes the call itself. All other calls would be made by the umpire.

"It's years ahead of anything else," Pollard said. "Players will now be able to concentrate more on playing tennis than challenging dubious line-calls."

At the US Open, the system was used "live" in the over-35s event and met with a favourable response from competitors. However, the cost of installation — £130,000 for the three courts in Melbourne — might prove prohibitive for any but the biggest tournaments, and the players are adamant that if electronic line-calling is the way forward, every court should be computerised.

While John McEnroe and Jim Courier, for example, are in favour of the machine replacing the human eye, many players enjoy emotional contact on court. "Electronic machines can make mistakes, people make mistakes, I make

mistakes. I need to see someone there on court," Goran Ivanisevic said.

"In principle, we support any system which will make line-calling more accurate," Bill Babcock, of the International Tennis Federation, said yesterday. "But it is up to the individual grand slams. The system has not been tested on clay or grass surfaces."

Chris Goringe, the chief executive of Wimbledon, does not envisage the centre court being dug up and wired in the immediate future, but does not rule out the possibility.

"We will be keeping an eye on experiments. But it would have to be thoroughly tested before we contemplated using it," he said.

"The main aim is to collect data and show players how good it is," Pollard said. "It will not be introduced without full consultation with players and relevant officials."

John McEnroe

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